

Special Conference
Number
Full Report of
The Annual Assembly

Local Government Service

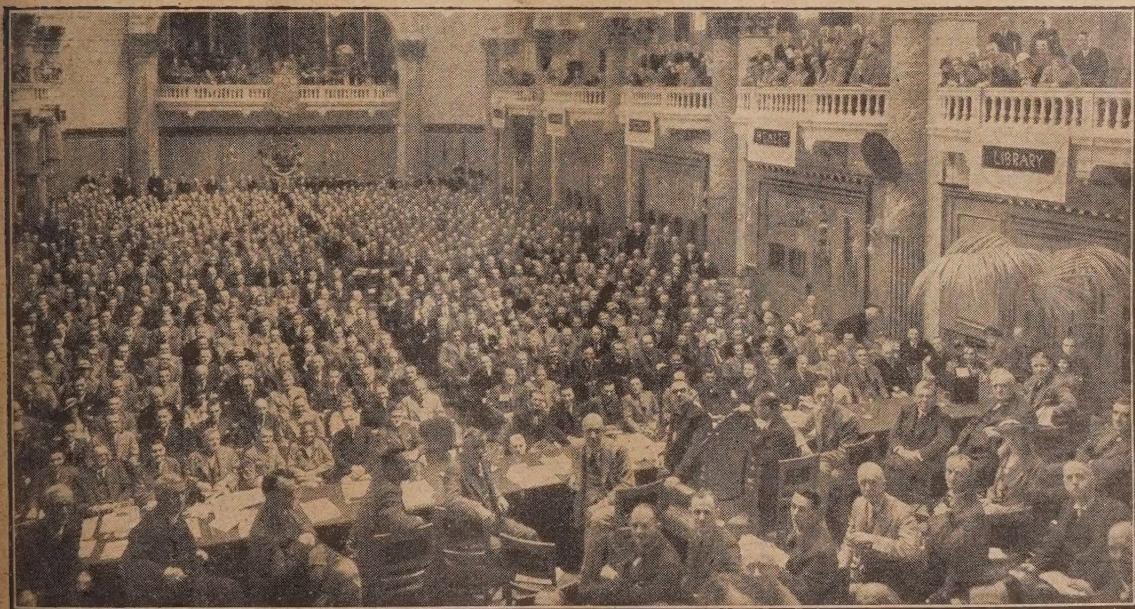
No. 7

JULY, 1935

Vol. XVI

N.A.L.G.O. CONFERENCE AT CHELTENHAM

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
SPECIAL REPORTS OF ALL MEETINGS



THE CONFERENCE IN SESSION AT CHELTENHAM TOWN HALL

AIR weather on the whole—though it might have been warmer—favoured the annual conference, held at Whitsun, June 7-11 at Cheltenham, the social and shopping metropolis of the West of England. This was the second occasion on which the Association has met in this beautiful town, the first time having been in 1909, since when, as was remarked by the Mayor (Councillor E. L. Ward, P.), the organisation has developed from infancy to maturity. The statistics are a remarkable comparison, but in one respect the proceedings on both occasions were the same, namely in the warmth and sincerity of the civic welcome which could not have been improved upon.

Everything was done locally that experience and foresight could suggest, to make the 300 odd delegates and visitors comfortable and happy. A N.A.L.G.O. Conference to-day involves a tremendous amount of detail work, not only for the officials of the Association, but also for the hosts, particularly the branch, the Conference Council and the Reception Committee, whose members laid themselves out unreservedly to discharge their duties and

obligations of the town. Not a single complaint was put on record. Mr. W. J. Baché (president of the branch) and Miss Bradshaw, who undertook the heavy responsibility of conference secretary, vied with each other in the most praiseworthy manner in attending to the multifarious matters involved in the arrival of so large a number of visitors. This was the first time the conference has had a lady secretary and it was agreed that the innovation was a gratifying success. Doubtless it was due to her feminine intuition that the ladies on their arrival found waiting for them at their hotels a charming gift of flowers.

The social and entertainment programme was up to standard, if not a trifle above it, owing to the numerous amenities of the town and its attractive environs. There were two new items, a garden party at Pittville Park and Pump Room, with a cabaret performance of Madam Irving's Academy, and a dinner given by the Conference Council to the president and members of the National Executive in the Town Hall. This was followed by a carnival ball, which like the Mayoral Reception, was a huge success. There were, of course, the usual con-

certs, attractions in the Winter Garden and several tours to the Cotswolds, Malvern Hills and Wye Valley. The annual service and ceremonial at the war memorial were well attended.

As to the conference itself, the absence of any outstanding matter, like the Hadow Report, which invested last year's conference at Scarborough with so much importance, did not diminish the interest of delegates at the business meetings, which were each well attended from beginning to end. As showing the exceptional interest taken in the proceedings, two card votes were called for with regard to matters upon which it was necessary to have a proper and unmistakable decision. Naturally, as the Silver Jubilee and the Centenary of Local Government coincided with the Cheltenham assembly, these special events were somewhat prominent in the message of congratulation to His Majesty and the oration of Professor Neale, the latter requiring perusal in print fully to appreciate this suggestive interpretation of the centuries of history which led up to the reformed municipal administration now enjoyed by the

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Continued)

THE FIRST SESSION

people of this country. Otherwise, the conference meetings were of a normal character, having regard to the objects and achievements of the Association.

Mr. Coster, the new president, has a busy year before him. The election of Mr. Armitage as the second vice-president was exceedingly popular and the few changes on the Executive Council bring in new blood. It was clearly a ladies' conference, for in addition to having an unusual number of lady visitors and delegates and a lady conference secretary, a second lady was placed on the Executive Council. Mrs. Franks, who has done so well as the women's representative, retires on leaving the service.

The retiring president, in his presidential address, struck a note of independence. The adoption, without debate, of the Hospitals and Nursing Homes Scheme was a feature of the general business and seemed to supply proof that such assistance to members was needed and welcome. Its administration will devolve upon Nalgo Provident Society. Public relations also was a subject well discussed and the idea of the Whitley Council system as a practical aid to the realisation of national scales of salaries and conditions of service again received endorsement. The conference closed, as usual, upon notes of comradeship and goodwill, with the singing of *Auld Lang Syne* and the National Anthem.

CIVIC WELCOME

The first conference session was held in the Town Hall on Saturday morning, the retiring president (Dr. A. Wotherspoon) in the chair, when the Mayor of Cheltenham (Councillor E. L. Ward) extended a civic welcome to the delegates. He was accompanied on the platform by the Mayoress and other members of the Corporation, also present being the Mayor of Gloucester (Mr. Nicholls), the Town Clerk of Cheltenham (Mr. Owen Seacome), and the Assistant Town Clerk (Mr. Richard Board).

The Mayor, who rising on the invitation of the president, was received with cheers, offered that great conference a hearty welcome on behalf of the people of Cheltenham. He said they especially deemed it a signal honour that in this centenary year of local government N.A.L.G.O. should have selected their town for their venue. The first, and indeed the only occasion on which the conference had visited Cheltenham was twenty-six years ago, the delegates and their ladies on that occasion numbering about 200. To-day, he believed, they had something like 1,400 guests. He trusted it would not be another twenty-six years before they came again, but in the unfortunate event of this being so, he calculated that by the ordinary law of geometrical progression, they should number at least 10,000. (Laughter.) There was another significant fact which made the conference this year a memorable one—that it was taking place in the Jubilee year of our good and beloved King and Queen. (Applause.) "I recall His Majesty's gracious words," said the Mayor, "'At no time were the demands upon the civic spirit of the local communities greater than they are to-day and in no department of our life is the spirit of public service more clearly manifested than in the sphere of local government.'

"The charges and additional duties which have fallen upon local administration during those twenty-five years of King George's reign have probably been greater than at any previous period of our history. The awakening of the public conscience with regard to the clearance of slums and the provision of houses for the people, the requirements for maternity and child welfare, the adoption of the Town Planning Act and the Town and Country Planning Act—all these things and a host of others besides, have made enormous additions to the work of corporation officials and require much additional legal and technical knowledge."

He supposed no one had so great an opportunity of seeing at first hand the work of the permanent official as the mayor of the borough, and he gladly paid tribute to the splendid work of their own officers. Their skilled and highly specialised work was done conscientiously and without fuss. And what was true of their own officials he was sure was true of local government officials all over the country, and the value of their work for the community was entirely beyond estimate. He trusted their stay in the town would be enjoyable and the conference productive of much good. (Loud applause.)

The PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks to the mayor and suggested that officers too had great opportunities of seeing what the mayor and his colleagues were doing. They did appreciate all the voluntary work put in by such gentlemen as the mayors. (Applause.)

TELEGRAM TO THE KING

The president proposed that a telegram be addressed to His Majesty the King in the following terms: "Representatives of 80,000 members of the National Association of Local Government Officers serving local authorities in Great Britain are assembled in conference at Cheltenham. It is a happy coincidence that the Silver Jubilee of your Majesty's reign is being celebrated at the same time as the centenary of local government. We humbly present loyal greetings to Your Majesty and to Her Majesty the Queen and pray that your Majesty may long continue your illustrious reign and that the progress of local government, which has been so notable during your Majesty's reign, may still continue to the advantage of your people."

The suggestion was carried with prolonged applause, the delegates rising and singing the National Anthem.

Later, the president read the following telegram from Buckingham Palace in reply: "The King heartily thanks the members of the National Association of Local Government Officers in conference at Cheltenham to-day for their kind congratulations, and is interested to know that the centenary of local government coincides with his Silver Jubilee."

B. & O. FUND

The Mayoress (Mrs. Ward) received the purses from branches for the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, the total amount being £15,783 8s. 7d., and presented the trophies to those branches contributing the highest aggregate amounts. Hammersmith Branch gained the "Sir Homewood Crawford" Shield, awarded to the branch with the highest average amount per member. Their membership is sixty-three, and the average contribution £1 2s. 9d. per member. The "Sir Charles Wakefield" (Lord Wakefield) Shield awarded to the branch collecting the highest aggregate amount went to Liverpool Branch with £458 11s. 1d. The Bridlington Cup for tennis by Mr. A. G. Paton (Tunbridge Wells) and in the chess tournament for "Pullinger" Cup the Ipswich team were victors.

Mrs. FRANKS presented the Mayoress with a bouquet and, in proposing a vote of thanks to her, said the conference desired to tender grateful thanks, not only for the services rendered that morning but also for the general welcome and hospitality the Mayoress and Mayor has accorded to them. She thought Cheltenham conference was unique; she had never known a conference open with an oration before, and was very glad that after years of local government they were cultivating not only business ability and capacity for work but some of the fine arts. (Laughter and applause.) At that conference they had had a reception and warmth of welcome such as they had never had before. (Hear, hear.) Every lady delegate when she went into her bedroom on arrival found a little vase of roses, accompanied by a card specially prepared which read "Nalgo Conference, 1935. The ladies of the Cheltenham Branch extend a warm welcome to you during your visit to Cheltenham." On behalf of every lady she expressed thanks for this very warm welcome which was not only warm but sweet and tender and it had gone to the heart of every woman. It was alleged that administration of local government would change considerably in the next 100 years.

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MR. G. W. COSTER, M.B.E.
New President of N.A.L.G.O.

Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E., who was elected president of the Association for the ensuing year, is Clerk to the Welsh Derby Assessment Committee and Superintendent Registrar. His career in the local government service extends over a century. He was appointed Assistant Clerk to the Axbridge Poor Law Union in 1884, and subsequently held appointments at Wells, Kettering, Prescott, Dudley and Liverpool. He was vice-president of the former Association of Poor Law Unions, vice-president of the Union and Rural District Clerks' Association (now the Local Government Clerks' Association), of which he was elected president to succeed the late Mr. J. A. Battersby; president of the former National Poor Law Officers' Association, and he is a member of the Board of Management of Logonia. Mr. Coster's election to the presidency is of more than usual interest as he is the first representative of the large number of Poor Law officers transferred to the service of the county county borough councils under the Local Government Act, 1929, to reach that office.

South Wales £890 15s. 10d.; Scotland £45s. 2d. Sundry £198 os. od., together with £507 11s. 9d. not received in time to be listed.

The Mayoress also presented the sports trophies.

The "Alexander Walker" Shield for golf was gained by Mr. W. E. Westhead (Leicester County Council); the "Hugh Begg" Cup for bowls by the Welsh team; the "Lowestoft" Cup for tennis by Mr. A. G. Paton (Tunbridge Wells) and in the chess tournament for "Pullinger" Cup the Ipswich team were victors.

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DISCUSSION ON THE B. & O. FUND

(Continued from page 190)

standing charge on the fund. They wanted to be in such a state that the interest from investments would provide these standing amounts.

On behalf of the Hampshire County Officers' Branch, the following motion was moved :—

"That the minimum subscription to the B. and O. Fund should be on a scale graduated according to the present scale for the payments of subscriptions, as follows :—

Salary not exceeding £52 p.a. 1d. per month or 1/- p.a.

Salary exceeding £52 but not exceeding £120 p.a., 1½d. per month or 1½ p.a.

Salary exceeding £120 but not exceeding £260 p.a., 2½d. per month or 2½ p.a.

Salary exceeding £260 but not exceeding £350 p.a., 3d. per month or 3/- p.a.

Salary exceeding £350 but not exceeding £450 p.a., 4d. per month or 4/- p.a.

Salary exceeding £450 p.a., 5d. per month or 5/- p.a.

It was pointed out the motion was concerned with the younger members, whom it was difficult to get in at the ordinary subscription of 2s. 6d. The graduated scale, it was urged, would secure 100 per cent. membership.

An amendment to the motion in the name of the West Midland District Committee that the minimum subscription be increased from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. was defeated, and a further amendment to make the minimum subscription one penny a week, was withdrawn by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee.

Mr. Newton said on present membership, if the motion was carried, there would be a loss to the fund of £796. He asked the conference to accept an amendment tabled by the Liverpool Branch in the following terms :—

"That in view of the anxiety in regard to the future of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund expressed in paragraph 124 of the Annual Report the Management Committee be instructed to obtain the views of all District Committees and branches on

(a) The desirability or otherwise of increasing the powers and duties of Regional Committees.

(b) What manner, if any, can the present organisation be improved, and

(c) What special action, if any, has been taken by districts and branches to secure increased support for the Fund and report thereon to the 1936 Annual Conference."

Mr. Newton said this would cause a full inquiry into the rules and regulations of the B. and O. Fund.

The motion was rejected and the Liverpool amendment carried.

The following notice of motion given by the National Executive Council to amend rule 30 (b) relating to diplomas of merit was carried :—

"That the rules and constitution of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund be amended as follows :—

Delete Rule 30 (b) and substitute the following :—
(b) average £5 per member of the branch, provided that where in any year there is a decrease of five per cent. or more in the branch membership by reason of which the average amount of the contributions to the fund exceeds £5 per member, the branch shall be disqualified from receiving a Diploma except in special cases as may be determined by the Management Committee."

On the motion of the National Executive Council, it was agreed to insert the following new rules :—

"That the rules and constitution of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund be amended as follows :—

(1) Definitions. Rule 2.

"At the end of Line 17, insert 'Trustees' means the Trustees for the time being of the Fund.'

(2) Rules of the Association. Rule 34.

Delete Rule 34 and substitute the following therefor :—

"The Rules and Constitution of the Association as regards the vesting of property, the investment of monies, the holding of land, the keeping of accounts, the indemnification of members of the Council and Officers of the Association, and in all other respects whatsoever, so far as may be applicable, shall apply to the Trustees, the Management Committee and the Fund, as if expressly incorporated therein, and the procedure and work of the Management Committee shall be governed by the Regulations affecting other Committees of the Council.

(3) Security for Loans, etc.

Insert the following new Rule 35 :—

"Security for Loans, etc. The Trustees may accept as consideration for any loan, allowance or annuity to be paid, granted or made by the Management Committee such security as the Management Committee may in their discretion direct."

Grants to Non-members

The Management Committee reported :—

"During the past year, several questions have arisen as to the eligibility of past members of the Association and/or their bona-fide dependents to receive assistance from the Fund particularly in those cases where such past members are not eligible for retired membership of the Association. The legal advisers stated that the rules, as at present drawn, did not allow assistance in any form to be given to such persons and your Council feels that there may be several cases where unnecessary hardship is being created by the limitations of the rules."

The National Executive Council accordingly submitted the following notice of motion :—

That the rules and constitution of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund be amended as follows :—

Delete Rule 3 and substitute the following therefor :—

"The objects of the Fund shall be to afford, when necessary, assistance to the following classes of persons :

(1) members;

(2) bona fide dependents of members;



THE MAYORESS OF CHELTENHAM
(Mrs. WARD).

(3) bona fide dependents of deceased members;

(4) members of the Association;

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SAFEGUARD YOUR FUTURE

against Illness
by joining the

NALGO PROVIDENT SOCIETY

Select your monthly contribution from the table shown below

Monthly Contribution.	Benefit.
	£ s. d. per week
1/-	provides
2/-	"
3/-	"
4/-	"
5/-	"
6/-	"
7/-	"
8/-	"
9/-	"

All members are entitled to two weeks FREE residence at NALGO HOUSE, MATLOCK, to recuperate.

and
Enrol Now!

You cannot join
whilst you are ill.

APPLICATION FORM AND
FULL PARTICULARS FROM
LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS

OR

**NALGO
PROVIDENT SOCIETY**
24, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Continued)

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

- (5) bona fide dependents of members of the Association;
- (6) bona fide dependents of deceased members of the Association; and
- (7) past members of the Fund or the Association who have left the Local Government Service on account of ill-health or similar circumstances and who are not eligible for membership or retired membership of the Association, but who at the date of leaving the Local Government Service were members of the Association, and bona fide dependents of such past members.

Such assistance shall be given by granting :—

- (a) relief in cases of distress, illness, accident or sudden emergency;
- (b) temporary loans;
- (c) allowances or annuities;
- (d) permits for admission to sanatoria, convalescent homes or other institutions;
- (e) facilities for consulting specialists at reduced rates.

Provided that in those cases coming within classes (4) to (7) both inclusive above, no assistance shall be rendered until the recommendations in connection with such cases have been approved by the Management Committee and the Council."

The Glamorgan County Officers' Branch submitted an amendment that paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 be deleted and that the words "or the Association" be deleted from paragraph 7.

MR. BRIGHT (Glamorgan) said his branch felt their motion would be unpopular, but it was a question of principle. Unless something was done on the lines they suggested or a bold policy of making subscriptions compulsory was adopted, they would not move much farther forward.

An amendment by the Hammersmith Branch to delete objects 4 and 5 was withdrawn in favour of the Glamorgan amendment.

The Burnley and District Branch also submitted an amendment as follows :—

To delete (4) "members of the Association," and alter (7) to (6) to read as follows :—

Past members of the Fund who have left the Local Government Service on account of ill-health or similar circumstances and who are not eligible for membership or retired membership of the Association, but who, at the date of leaving the Local Government Service were members of the Fund, and bona fide dependents of such past members of the Fund or of the Association.

Moving this amendment, MR. J. H. HOLT (Burnley) said his branch considered it unjust that the 42 per cent. of members who did not deem it advisable to pay the small annual subscription of 2s. 6d. should be able to make a claim on the fund when need arose.

East Ham Branch also submitted an amendment to delete words referring to eligibility of membership.

Mr. Newton pointed out that the motion of the National Executive Council merely sought to clarify and not to extend the existing practice. Bearing in mind that the whole rules were to be carefully reviewed in the next twelve months, he asked conference not to accept the amendments.

The amendments were defeated and the motion agreed to.

East Ham Branch submitted a notice of motion that "having regard to the pressing need for increasing the income of the B. and O. Fund this conference decides that in future the whole of the income of the Fund shall be held available for relief."

An amendment tabled by the Derbyshire Branch that the Fund be relieved of a certain portion of the administrative expenses was withdrawn.

MR. E. A. ROGERS (East Ham), moving the

motion, said the rule of the Association which required that the whole overhead expenses of N.A.L.G.O. should be apportioned between all its activities was good, but in regard to the B. and O. Fund, the effect was the cost of administration increased year by year, not in proportion to the activities of the fund, but in proportion to the general activities of N.A.L.G.O. At present the expenses of the fund worked out at 10.2 per cent. The best slogan they could have was to tell members every penny they subscribed went to the relief of distress.

MR. E. A. WILLIAMS (East Ham) seconded, saying the fund would benefit from having administration expenses re-imburased from the general fund and also by increased contributions from members, if the "grouse" about the high administration costs were removed.

MR. LLOYD said whatever fund the expenses were charged to, the finances of the Association were not altered by one penny. But he could see the possibility of expenses, already heavy, increasing if the B. and O. Fund were relieved of the responsibility of meeting them. If the suggestion would improve their finances or help the fund in any way, he would be sympathetic towards it, but he found it impossible to be sympathetic on the score that it was unnecessary, undesirable and illegal. It was proper every account of N.A.L.G.O. should bear its proportion of administration charges.

The motion was lost.

The report of the Committee of Management was adopted.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President then delivered the following address to Conference:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to follow the precedent of my predecessors in office in delivering to you a presidential address. My first note must be one of grateful thanks to every member of the Association for the cordial support which has been given to me during this year. I know you will not overlook the fact that I hold an exacting and responsible position in the county borough of Stoke-on-Trent and I have not had too much time, but so far as my duties have permitted, I have responded to the calls of the branches and district committees. I want to say that I have derived a wonderful inspiration from the cordiality and sincerity of the welcomes which I have received in all parts of the country. I know that spirit of camaraderie and the honour which is attached to the post which I hold will be always accorded to the president of the Association because of the office he holds.

It is not easy to address you because I can add very little to what is so crisply and concisely recorded in the annual report of the Association's work and achievements during the past year. The success of the Association is equally distributed over every department of its activities and I cannot do more than urge you to read it and to bring the force of its message to every one of your colleagues. There must always be issues before us—some more or less clear-cut; others in embryo—which take up the time of the National Executive Council, but which cannot be included in the annual report, framed, as it is, as a simple statement of achievement. We have had to look at ourselves occasionally; we have had to examine our own policy; matters have arisen which have required the greatest possible statesmanlike caution.

One thing I am particularly proud of and that is to be able to share with my successor the office of president of N.A.L.G.O. during the year which marks the centenary of local government. The work behind this great effort to focus public thought on the important part which local government plays in the life

NO PARTY POLITICS

of the nation has been shared by the Council of the Association and practically every one of our branches and the cumulative effect of this work will not be felt for some time. But we should pay unstinting tribute to those officers who have made the best of their resources for carrying out what was undoubtedly a difficult task. Every effort put forward has been a valuable contribution. Exhibitions, lectures, newspaper articles, visits to schools, commemoration services, public functions of all kinds have been devised and carried out with that one great end in view. It has not been easy to decide what was the best means of celebrating this great year and each town has had to make the best of its own resources. It is, however, hoped that out of all this experience something will emerge which we can use from year to year for the uplift of the prestige of public administration.

We have not been free from criticism, but that has come more from outside the service than from within. When there are people who are giving us thought, we can assume that we are important enough to attract attention. I want to say to every member of this Association that his first duty is to the best principles of public administration. After that, N.A.L.G.O. has the right to decide its own method of organisation. There have been insidious attacks made upon our members and branches. We have been attacked because we prefer to keep our organisation separate from any contacts which may have party political associations. We have got to have the courage of our convictions and to make it perfectly clear where we stand.

The Future

There never was a time in the history of this country when the future was so pregnant with possibilities. Local government is part of the public services of this country. Those services are designed to be a useful organisation for all classes of the community. Public confidence in the integrity of our services is based upon our detachment, our efficiency and upon our non-interference with policy which is, or may become, the cockpit of political controversy. Whilst the local government employer is elected on the votes of political partnership, the officer, as an individual in his work, and collectively in his organisation, cannot take sides without completely undermining the confidence of the people in his integrity and in his impartial administrative efficiency. No party, no movement, has a right to expect from local government officers anything more than the best advice and service which they can give to that particular party or movement during the period it happens to be in office or in control. This issue touches the very foundations of the greatest heritage which this country possesses and one which other countries have learned to value as soon as they have lost it and, as your president, I should be lacking in my duty and responsibility if I did not make it clear to this country and to the world where N.A.L.G.O. stands.

Our organisation has its domestic problems, but a mistake in that region can be rectified with little loss to anybody. I think I can take it for granted that every one of you loves N.A.L.G.O. as I love it, and that my successor in office and the National Executive Council can continue to rely upon your unfailing support.

What I have just said leads me to refer especially to our education work. We cannot, in our ordinary, executive day-to-day jobs, gain a full and complete impression of what is the essential meaning and use of our social services. It requires something of detachment from the daily round before we can ponder on the historical background of the public services, of their place in the life of the com-

munity and of their importance in present-day affairs. Our Association, more than any other organisation in existence, is striving constantly, by its examinations, its correspondence institute, its loans scheme, its scholarships and prizes and, over and above all, by its summer schools, to bring home to local government officers, what a rich heritage, what an enormous responsibility, and what an important future is theirs.

Our task will become easier as our members

of our future, and to them I express my personal indebtedness.

I would also like, before I close, to express my thanks to the staff at headquarters, to the area staffs who have helped me so much, and I only wish that more of you could have the opportunities of seeing the loyalty and devotion given to the work of the Association by these people who are so essential to give continuity to our efforts.

In my closing remarks, I would like to add my personal congratulations to Mr. Hill, our General Secretary, on the great honour which His Majesty the King has seen fit to confer upon him. (Applause.) I was also going, at a later stage this morning, to congratulate Sir Henry Jackson on his recent honour, but I am doing that now and offering him our congratulations on your behalf because he will not address you until Monday.

Thanks to the President

MR. H. H. SPEARS (Sanitary Inspectors' Association) proposed a vote of thanks to the president for his admirable address. He said they would all agree that the doctor was the right man in the right place, but he would go further and claim that it was particularly appropriate in this year when the Centenary of Local Government was being celebrated that the doctor should hold the position he did that day, because he would venture to claim that the public health section was the premier section in the Local Government Service. (Laughter.) "That remark appears to have created some amusement," said Mr. Spears, "but I would respectfully point out that but for the fact that the people of this country became conscious that it was the duty of the governing body to look after the health of the community, I very much doubt whether you would have had any useful Local Government Service at all." Dr. Wotherspoon's address was symptomatic of his presidency and the splendid work he had put in on behalf of N.A.L.G.O. (Prolonged applause.)

THE PRESIDENT, acknowledging, said N.A.L.G.O. at bottom had a good heart and no president need fear that he would not have the whole-hearted support of members of the Association. He had had a wonderful time during his year of office and anything he had been able to do for N.A.L.G.O. was sufficient reward. He was heartily proud of N.A.L.G.O. and all its work. The president went on to say there was one little item of sadness in connection with the staff, and that was the absence of Mr. Fox, the Organising Secretary, who through illness was not able to be with them. He had not been able to carry on his work for N.A.L.G.O. for some considerable time and he suggested they would like to send him a message from the conference, wishing him the best of luck and a speedy return to health.

The suggestion was endorsed with applause and later the president read a telegram of thanks and good wishes from Mr. Fox.

Election of N.E.C.

Results of the poll for the election of members of the National Executive Council and the honorary officers for the ensuing year were then announced.

The honorary officers were elected as follows : President, Mr. G. W. Coster, M.B.E., Clerk to the West Derby Assessment Committee and Superintendent Registrar.

Vice-presidents, Mr. W. E. Lloyd, Borough Treasurer, Hampstead, and Mr. W. W. Armittage, Head, Plumbing Department, Sheffield. The unsuccessful nominations were : F. R. Finch, D. L. Griffiths, O.B.E., and J. L. Holland.

Trustees, Messrs. H. Begg, County Veterinary Inspector, Lanarkshire; S. Lord, Borough

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Dr. A. WOTHERSPOON,
Medical Officer of Health of Stoke-on-Trent,
Retiring President of N.A.L.G.O.

know the whole objective of their job and when the consumers of local government appreciate the value of our work. Such is the tenacity of phrases that adverse public opinion will only die with the demise of those who have been brought up on prejudices. In a letter to the Press the other day, I noticed that Sir Henry Jackson, M.P., whom we have with us to-day, quoted the following words from the message which His Majesty the King addressed to the children of London: "You are the heirs of a great past; but the future is yours, and is your high responsibility. Each of you must try to be a good citizen in a good city. To this end you must make the best use of all your powers." Citizenship implies a sense of mutual responsibility between neighbours and our town government is important to us all and what we should like it to be is the measure of our sympathy for our children. If we do our part in this sense, it would be enough for any theorist or idealist, and I say to those who are attempting to undermine the independence of those who are engaged in public administration and who are urging this great Association of ours to take a step which can do nothing but create suspicion, "Stop, before you do irreparable harm and damage to those principles upon which good government depends."

I want to take this opportunity of expressing my personal thanks to the chairmen of the various committees and to every member of the National Executive Council and, in conclusion, I want to pay tribute to those men and women who give so much voluntary service in the interests of their colleagues through the branches and district committees. By going about the country attending meetings and other functions connected with the district committees and the branches, I have learned to assess the correct value of that work. They have made our greatness what it is and they are the hope

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Continued)

HONORARY OFFICERS AND NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Treasurer, Acton; W. H. Whinnerah, Secretary, Highways Department, Manchester.

Honorary Treasurer, Mr. W. E. Lloyd, Borough Treasurer, Hampstead.

Honorary Solicitor for England, Mr. P. H. Harrold, Town Clerk, Hampstead.

Honorary Solicitor for Wales, Mr. D. J. Parry, Deputy Clerk to the Glamorgan County Council.

Honorary Solicitor for Scotland, Mr. G. S. Fraser, Town Clerk, Aberdeen.

Detailed results of the National Executive Council, with the number of votes given, were :—

Metropolitan District No. 1

ELECTED.—(1) Finch, F. R., Deputy Director of Education, Willesden B., 5,950; (2) Baker, J. T., Rate Collector, Lambeth M.B., 5,177; (3) Garrard, A.A., Assistant Secretary to Education Committee, East Ham C.B., 4,568; (4) Pinches, A., Chief Electricity Collector, Croydon C.B., 4,307; (5) Whitney, E. G., First Class Clerk, Port of London Authority, 2,294; (6) Worden, L., Town Clerk, Hendon B., 2,238.

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(7) McDougall, D., Chief Librarian, West Ham C.B., 2,207; (8) Hembrow, R. G., Assistant Chief Relieving Officer, London C.C., 2,057; (9) Barton, F. D., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Hammersmith M.B., 2,010; (10) Wright, C. Kent, Town Clerk and Solicitor, Stoke Newington M.B., 1,804; (11) Foulger, F. W., Principal Clerk, Public Health Department, Greenwich M.B., 1,749; (12) Ellis, J. B. W., Assistant Solicitor, Middlesex C.C., 1,673; (13) Walpole, L. S. P., Assistant Borough Treasurer, Bethnal Green M.B., 1,592; (14) Swindlehurst, J. E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Hampstead M.B., 1,469; (15) Brown, R. D., Chief Clerk, Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department, Barking B., 1,333; (16) Allport, C. H., Rating Surveyor, Ealing B., 1,182; (17) Graham, C. A., Food Inspector, Poplar M.B., 1,182; (18) Virgo, C. W., Assistant Bookkeeper, Bermondsey M.B., 1,094; (19) Longman, S. J., Superintendent, Attendance and Bye-laws Department, Walthamstow B., 1,047; (20) Chalmers, T., Chief Clerk, Public Health Department, Surrey C.C., 1,046; (21) Burleigh, H., Deputy Borough Engineer, Acton B., 1,044; (22) Smith, E. W., Clerk, Town Clerk's Department, Woolwich M.B., 1,029; (23) Hughes, S. A., Principal Clerk, Lewisham M.B., 991; (24) Jones, W. H., Assistant to Town Clerk, Twickenham B., 881; (25) Brown, S. J., Chief Clerk, Engineer's Department, Bromley B., 833; (26) Hellier, F., Chief Librarian, Southwark M.B., 730; (27) Bentley, W., Deputy Borough Treasurer, Shoreditch M.B., 715; (28) Crane, W. F., First Class Clerk, Town Clerk's Department, Wandsworth M.B., 666; (29) Read, H. E., Chief Clerk, Town Clerk's Department, St. Pancras M.B., 640.

North-Western and North Wales District No. 2

ELECTED.—(1) Whinnerah, W. H., Secretary, Highways Department, Manchester C.B., 11,504; (2) Willett, F. J., Chief Clerk, Higher Education Department, Salford C.B., 11,497; (3) Wilkinson, J. W., Deputy Town Clerk, Southport C.B., 10,114; (4) Freeman, T., Chief Accountant, Treasurer's Department, Manchester C.B., 9,937; (5) Gee, J. E., Principal Clerk, Public Health Department, Lancashire C.C., 9,141; (6) Singleton, J. W., Borough Librarian, Accrington B., 7,851; (7) Riley, E. L., Chief Clerk, Veterinary Department, Liverpool C.B., 7,132; (8) Warren, J. H., Clerk, Newton-in-Makerfield U.D.C., 5,055.

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(9) Cannell, J. D., Deputy Borough Treasurer, Warrington C.B., 4,746; (10) Carter, G., Chief Committee Clerk, Stockport C.B., 4,513; (11) Pickup, J. W., Chief Clerk, Cleansing Department, Blackpool C.B., 4,307; (12) Speight, W. E., Sewage Works Manager, Bolton C.B., 3,601; (13) Suthren, T. D., Chief Clerk, Town Clerk's Department, Wallasey C.B., 2,964; (14) Sharpe, F., Deputy Chief Clerk, Electricity Department, Oldham C.B., 2,948; (15) Sweet, C. C., Finance and Rating Officer, Bucklow R.D.C., 2,875; (16) Beaumont, P., Borough Treasurer, Stalybridge B., 2,717; (17) Lonie, H. A., Secretary for Education, St. Helens C.B., 1,854; (18) Jones, J. D., Chief Assistant, Finance Department, Rhyl U.D.C., 1,715; (19) Simpson, B. Z., County Accountant, Westmorland C.C., 1,359; (20) Hodges, P. J., Clerk and Solicitor, Ellesmere Port U.D.C., 1,243; (21) Brown, A., Rating and Valuation Officer, Northwich U.D.C., 1,167.

North-Eastern District No. 3

ELECTED.—(1) Grainger, V., Senior Grade Clerk, City Treasurer's Department, Newcastle-upon Tyne C.B., 2,790; (2) Vince, J. W., Clerk, Education Committee, Durham C.C., 1,982.

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(3) Fawcett, J. Y., Chief Cashier, South Shields C.B., 896; (4) Williamson, J. B., Medical Officer, Public Assistance Department, Tynemouth C.B., 782; (5) Bingham, F., Chief Assistant Rating and Valuation Officer, Middlesbrough C.B., 694.

Yorkshire District No. 4

ELECTED.—(1) Armitage, W. W., Head, Plumbing Department, Sheffield C.B., 5,786; (2) Bolton, A. G., Senior Accountancy Assistant, Treasurer's Department, Harrogate B., 4,648; (3) Allen, H., Senior Clerk, Treasurer's Department, West Riding C.C., 4,008; (4) Nolan, T., Clerk, Electricity Department, Leeds C.B., 2,832.

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(5) Ratcliffe, E., Director of Education, Keighley B., 2,678; (6) Dransfield, W., Chief Clerk, Treasurer's Department, Huddersfield C.B., 1,927; (7) Clark, J. H., 2nd Assistant (Rates Section), City Treasurer's

Department, Wakefield C.B., 1,725; (8) Grimshaw, S. E., Assistant Education Officer, Pontefract B., 1,442; (9) Horwill, J. W., Commercial Assistant, Gas Department, Bradford C.B., 1,117; (10) Moore, E., Chief Estate Clerk, Halifax C.B., 913.

East Midland District No. 5

ELECTED.—(1) Chaston, J., Clerk to the Council, Kettering U.D.C., 2,826; (2) Day, A. B., Surveyor, Nottingham C.B., 2,621.

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(3) Clist, J. J., Chief Rating Assistant, Leicester C.B., 1,040; (4) Colam, G. T., Local Taxation Officer, Holland C.C., 271.

West Midland District No. 6

ELECTED.—(1) Harrod, F. H., Director of Education, Coventry C.B., 2,063; (2) Stone, G. A., Local Taxation Officer, Worcestershire C.C., 1,906.

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(3) Wooldridge, Miss L. H., Inspector of Health Visitors and Midwives, Staffordshire C.C., 1,226; (4) Taylor, H., Deputy Town Clerk, Stoke-on-Trent C.B., 814; (5) Sexton, H. W., Assistant Secretary, Education Committee, Oldbury U.D.C., 370.

Eastern District No. 7

ELECTED.—(1) Scarlett, E. H., Committee Clerk, Norwich C.B., 1,360; (2) Ogden, A. D., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Chelmsford R.D.C., 985.

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(3) Greenhalgh, L. W., Chief Public Assistance Officer, Superintendent Registrar of Births and Deaths and Clerk to Assessment Committee, Ipswich C.B., 607; (4) Lolley, C. F., Chief Local Taxation Officer, Bedfordshire C.C., 475; (5) Warren, C. E., Chief Clerk, Borough Engineer's Department, Southend-on-Sea C.B., 376; (6) Thorne, R. P., Chief Assistant, County Accountant's Department, Cambridgeshire C.C., 329; (7) Spencer, W., Chief Clerk, Surveyor's Department, West Suffolk C.C., 323; (8) Melliar, D. A., Rating Officer, Benfleet U.D.C., 185.

South-Eastern District No. 8

ELECTED.—(1) Webb, A., Reference Librarian, Brighton C.B., 1,595; (2) Baker, W. A. N., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Maidstone B., 1,376.

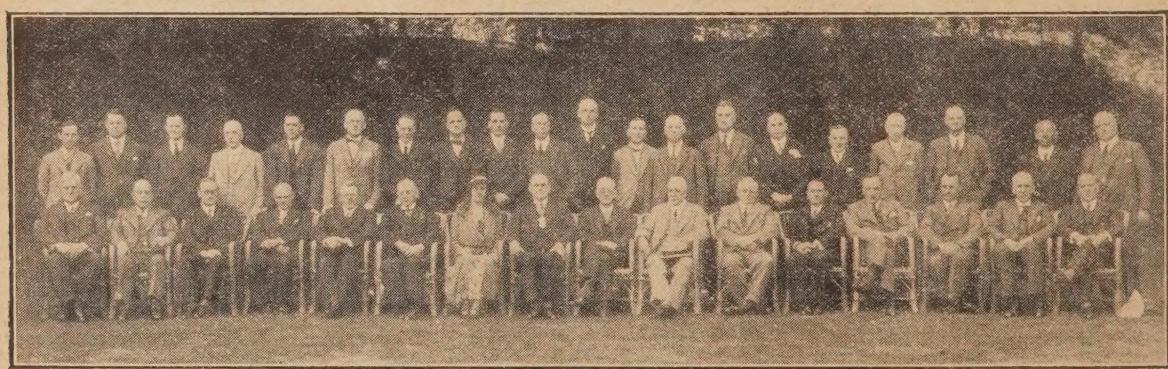
UNSUCCESSFUL.—(3) Moss, J., Public Assistance Officer, Kent C.C., 1,074; (4) Philip, A. J., Borough Librarian, Gravesend B., 317.

Southern District No. 9

ELECTED.—(1) Griffiths, D. L., Town Clerk, Aldershot B., returned unopposed; (2) Merriman, F. V., Chief Education Officer, Reading C.B., returned unopposed.

South-Western District No. 10

ELECTED.—(1) Newman, C. J., Town Clerk, Exeter C.B., 1,814; (2) Stead, E., County Surveyor, Somerset C.C., 1,535.



A Group of the National Executive Council at Cheltenham.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Continued)

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(3) Cole, P. H., Committee and Establishment Clerk, Plymouth C.B., 904; (4) Stratford, S., Assistant Collector of Dues, Port of Bristol Authority, 844; (5) Shears, R. T., Clerk, Clerk of the Council's Department, Devon C.C., 719.

South Wales and Monmouth District No. 11

ELECTED.—(1) Llewellyn, G., Chief Clerk, County Accountant's Department, Monmouthshire C.C., returned unopposed; (2) Morris, H., Chief Clerk for Higher Education, Swansea C.B., returned unopposed.

Scottish District—Glasgow Area No. 12 (1)

ELECTED—Archibald, A. G. M., Chemist, Chemist's Department, Glasgow B., returned unopposed.

Scottish District—East and North Area No. 12 (2)

ELECTED—Wilson, W., Chief Public Assistance Officer, Fife C.C., returned unopposed.

Scottish District—South and West Area No. 12 (3)

ELECTED.—(1) Begg, H., County Veterinary Inspector, Lanarkshire C.C., 642.

UNSUCCESSFUL.—(2) Campbell, J., Public Assistance Officer, Stirling C.C., 322.

Two Representatives of the Women Members

Miss L. H. Wooldridge, Inspector of Health Visitors and Midwives, Staffordshire C.C. (16,686 votes); Miss I. Stansfield, Juvenile Employment Officer, Education Department, Manchester C.B. (14,027 votes).

Messrs. Jackson, Pixley & Co., Chartered Accountants, were appointed the Association's auditors for the year 1935 at a fee of £367 10s.

Financial Statement

MR. W. E. LLOYD, Honorary Treasurer, submitted the financial statement and accounts. He said the total funds were £1,964,091, while the income and expenditure account dealt with a turnover exceeding a million pounds. There was a surplus of £2,473 on the General Fund after £1,514 publicity expenses had been charged to that fund instead of to reserve. There was a small deficit of £185 on Croyde Bay Holiday Centre after meeting £1,914 capital expenditure and a deficit on Cayton Bay Centre of £418 after meeting capital expenditure of £1,445 out of revenue. There was a surplus of £847 on all the holiday centres. After purchasing property out of revenue amounting to the sum of £38,180, the Association had an accumulated surplus of £10,000 and a general reserve of £40,989. The estimated value of investments was £48,801 against £41,279 cash investments, creating a reserve of over £7,000. Dealing with the accounts of the Provident Society, Mr. Lloyd said they had been able to return 8½d. out of every 1s. contributed by members, and the accumulated funds of the Society were £132,424, which was highly satisfactory. The accounts of Logomia and the Building Society were also satisfactory. He moved the adoption of the whole of the accounts.

The motion was agreed.

MR. BRIGHT (Glamorgan) moved a vote of thanks to the Honorary Treasurer for his magnificent work on behalf of members. Anybody who perused the accounts, he said, must be amazed at the amount of work they involved.

MR. FRASER (Dumbarton) seconded, humorously remarking that it was fitting that a Welshman and Scotsman should be associated in a matter of that kind. (Laughter.) They honoured Mr. Lloyd for the work he had done.

The motion was carried with acclamation, and acknowledging, Mr. Lloyd said it would be idle to suggest the work was not heavy. In fact, it was so heavy, he felt it was not fair to ask a newcomer to take on the burden for the next twelve months. (Laughter.) "There was another reason why my name should appear on the paper," added Mr. Lloyd amid renewed

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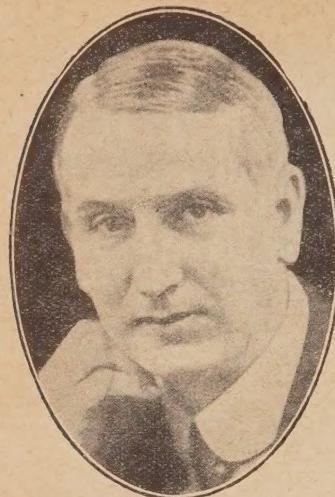
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25	1 10 0	17 11 0
30	1 15 0	20 9 6
35	2 4 2	25 16 9
40	2 12 6	30 14 3
45	3 8 4	39 19 6

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(without profits)
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	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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2	0 0 0	23 8 0
2	0 10	23 17 9
2	4 2	25 16 9
2	8 4	28 5 6

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE (*Continued*)

MR. W. E. LLOYD, F.S.A.A.,

Borough Treasurer of Hampstead, Senior Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer

laughter. "I refer to the Gresford Colliery Fund contribution when the N.E.C. were inclined to let their hearts run away with their heads, so I thought it highly desirable I should accept nomination for the ensuing year to keep them on the proper lines." (Laughter.)

Supporting Charities

A lively discussion subsequently ensued on this matter of a contribution to the Gresford Colliery Disaster Fund and to charities in general.

It arose on the following notice of motion by the National Executive Council:—

"That Rule 2 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended by the insertion of the following new object:—

"To do all such things as may from time to time be considered advisable to foster, safeguard, maintain or improve the status or influence of the Association or to promote the advancement of the Association or its district committees or its branches or any of them by contributions to public charities, voluntary organisations or other similar bodies."

MR. P. H. HARROLD, Honorary Solicitor for England, formally moving the amendment to rules, explained that during the past year the question was raised at the National Executive Council on the power of the Council to make a contribution to the Gresford Colliery Disaster Fund and he had no alternative but to advise that such an action was outside the scope of their functions. The effect of the proposed rule was that in future if the Council desired to make a grant to some deserving fund or project within the definition of the rule, definitely excluding any political organisation, they would be able to do it. Mr. Harrold said he had to tell the Executive that it would be open for anyone to go to court and surcharge each individual member of the Council with the £250 it was proposed to subscribe to the Lord Mayor's Fund. He asked Conference to reject an amendment by the East Midland District Committee and East Ham Branch to substitute "to contribute to public charities, voluntary organisations and other similar bodies," which was far too wide.

MR. STONE (West Midland District Committee) asked leave to withdraw a similar amendment standing in name of his Committee, and to support the amendment of the East Midland District Committee.

MR. W. E. LLOYD opposing the motion, said it was suggested that officers of local authorities, 70 per cent. of whom received pay of less than

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHARITIES

£5 a week, should give the "spendthrift" National Executive Council the right to contribute out of the subscriptions of juniors to such funds. The status of N.A.L.G.O. would not be improved by making these contributions. In his opinion, the present objects of the Association were quite wide enough.

A Salford Memoir

MR. L. H. TAYLOR (North Western District) said five years ago as a representative of Salford Branch he moved a resolution in somewhat similar terms, which on that occasion was opposed by the National Executive Council. It had needed a national appeal of the character of the Gresford Fund to bring home the necessity for a rule of that description. There was no doubt it was a desirable thing that the Association, acting nationally through its District Committees and Branches, should be empowered to respond to national appeals in the interests of the Association.

MR. W. SHEE (Kent) contended it was wrong for a great organisation like N.A.L.G.O. to endeavour at any time to make kudos out of making a grant to something which should be nothing but charity.

MR. W. H. WHINNERY (Manchester) supported the motion, pointing out that many Branches had already contributed to the Gresford Fund. He said the desirability of contributing had first been brought to the notice of the Executive by a Branch adjoining the place where the disaster occurred and there was a unanimous desire of the Council to do something of the kind, knowing it would be the wish of the Association. (Hear, hear.) All members of the Executive present at the meeting had said they would make good the amount if there was any question afterwards.

MR. W. W. ARMITAGE disagreed with the statement that the Association was trying to get kudos out of making contributions, and Mr. Willett said the issue was perfectly clear—did the members wish their great Association to take its part in any national effort or appeal with other similar bodies (cries of "Yes"), or did they wish to stand aside and have the finger of scorn pointed at them. (Cries of "No.") The Executive were unanimous that the Association should not be left out.

A card vote was taken, the motion of the N.E.C. being carried by 29,623 votes to 29,340.

A report of the N.E.C. stating that in order to give a greater opportunity to the members of the Council to gain experience of the work of the various Committees, it had been decided that no member might hold the office of Chairman of the Council or of any Standing Committee or Sub-Committee for a period exceeding two years, was referred back for further consideration.

Before the Conference adjourned for the luncheon interval, a photograph was taken in the conference hall.

Superannuation

On resumption, the PRESIDENT read the following telegram: "All good wishes for successful conference from members of the National Trades Union Club, Ben Tillett, Chairman, Arthur Prawick, Secretary." It was agreed to send the following reply: "N.A.L.G.O. Conference thoroughly appreciate your kind message of good wishes."

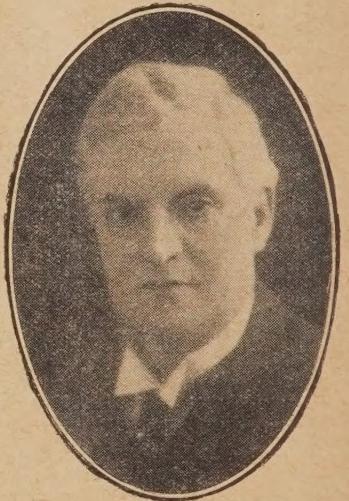
Consideration of the Executive's reports on references from the last annual conference was the first business taken, commencing with the question of compulsory superannuation. Last year a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to put into operation the definite recommendation contained in the Hadow Report that superannuation should be made compulsory. The resolution also asked that the Prime Minister should be asked to receive a deputation and that, failing satisfaction, the N.E.C. be directed to carry out a programme

of propaganda to demonstrate that compulsory superannuation was urgently necessary.

Over two pages of the report were devoted to details of what had been done. Following Sir Henry Jackson's Bill, a deputation was received by Sir Arthur Robinson, Secretary to the Ministry of Health, on June 7th, when they were told it was essential that substantial agreement should be reached on the main points of the Bill before it could be proceeded with. On July 11th a conference was held at the Ministry for the purpose of considering how far it was possible to arrive at a substantial measure of agreement, when representatives of the Ministry, the Government Actuary, the Scottish Office, the County Councils Association, the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Urban District Councils Association, the Rural District Councils Association, the London County Council, and N.A.L.G.O. were present.

Agreement amongst the representatives of local authorities present that it was desirable a compulsory bill for the local government service should be passed with the least possible delay was apparent, but several questions were raised and it was agreed to hold a second conference to which representatives of the Trades Union Congress would be invited. This was held on October 12th, 1934, when a considerable measure of agreement was arrived at and a small joint committee was appointed to consider certain points. A new Bill had been drafted by N.A.L.G.O., but in view of the Government's heavy programme of legislation their appeared no prospect of getting it promoted as a Government measure. All the bodies concerned had been asked to sign a joint letter to the Prime Minister pointing out they had reached agreement on the main measures of the Bill and urging that the Government should allow the necessary parliamentary time to be given for the Bill to be dealt with in this session. In the meantime, further negotiations to secure complete agreement on the provisions of the Draft Bill had taken place, but there were still a number of minor points outstanding on which agreement had not yet been reached.

MR. T. DAVIES (Gwent) moved the following resolution on behalf of the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee and the Gwent Branch:—



MR. W. W. ARMITAGE,

Head of the Plumbing Department of Corporation, who has been elected a Vice-President of N.A.L.G.O.

"That this Conference re-affirms the decision arrived at by the 1934 Conference, and urges His Majesty's Government to put into operation, without further delay, a

(Continued on page 200)



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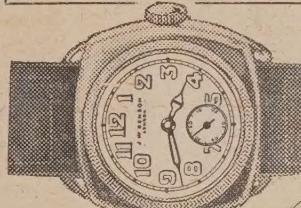
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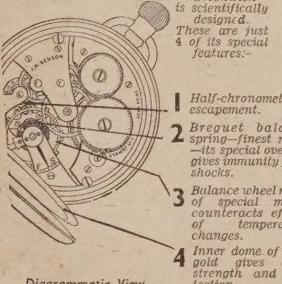
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Registrar, Liverpool.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

A. Wotherspoon, M.B., D.P.H., Medical
Officer of Health, Stoke-on-Trent.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

W. E. Lloyd, F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer,
Hampstead.
W. W. Armitage, Head, Plumbing Department,
Sheffield.

HONORARY TREASURER:

W. E. Lloyd, F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer,
Hampstead.

HONORARY SOLICITORS:

England—P. H. Harrold, Town Clerk, Hamp-
stead.

Wales—D. J. Parry, M.A., B.Sc., Deputy Clerk
to the Glamorgan C.C.

Scotland—G. S. Fraser, M.A., B.L., Town
Clerk, Aberdeen.

TRUSTEES:

H. Begg, F.R.C.V.S., County Veterinary
Inspector, Lanarkshire C.C.

S. Lord, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., Borough
Treasurer, Acton.

W. H. Whinneral, A.C.I.S., Secretary, High-
ways Department, Manchester.

GENERAL SECRETARY: L. Hill, C.B.E.

LEGAL SECRETARY AND INSURANCE SECRETARY:
J. Simonds, M.A., barrister-at-law.

ACCOUNTANT: H. G. Baker.

ORGANISING SECRETARY: W. P. Fox.

EDUCATION SECRETARY: H. Slater, A.C.I.S.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY:
H. Wright.

DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES:

Metropolitan and Eastern Districts and London
County Council Branch—T. M. Kershaw,
24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.
Telephone: Victoria 8592.

North Western and North Wales District—
Haden Corser, 22 Booth Street, Manchester.
Telephone: Central 5257.

North Eastern and Yorkshire Districts—J. B.
Swinden, 12 East Parade, Leeds. Telephone:
Leeds 24861.

East Midland, West Midland, and South Wales
Districts—J. E. N. Davis, York House,
Great Charles Street, Birmingham. Telephone:
Central 1836.

South Eastern, Southern, and South Western
Districts—F. Thomas, Room 60, Somerset
House, Reading. Telephone: Reading 3880.
Scottish—J. M. Mortimer, 135 Wellington
Street, Glasgow. Telephone: Douglas 404.

IMPORTANT DATES

- July 12 and 13.—Meetings of the committees
of the N.E.C.
- July 20.—Meeting of the National Executive
Council.
- July 20.—Opening of the English Summer
School at Balliol College, Oxford.
- July 31.—Third quarterly return of alterations
in Register of Membership.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted
to branch officers from headquarters:—

June 5, 1935

Circular No. 43/Log./1935

(To local correspondents of Logomia.)

Regarding the issue to local correspondents
of blank cover notes for motor insurance.

Circular No. 44/Log./1935

(To local correspondents of Logomia.)

(a) Enclosing a copy of a new Fire booklet
and setting out a form for requisitioning
further copies.

(b) Regarding the issue of Fire and House-
holder's Comprehensive Insurances to the
children of members of the association.

June 19, 1935

Circular No. 45/1935

(To branch secretaries.)

Regarding the recently purchased private
hotel at Rhos-on-Sea, N. Wales.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

At the conclusion of the Conference, on
June 10, the National Executive Council met at
the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, under the
chairmanship of Mr. G. W. Coster, the presi-
dent. Mr. W. W. Armitage (Sheffield) was
elected as chairman of the National Executive
Council for the ensuing year, and Mr. J. W.
Wilkinson (Southport) was elected as vice-
chairman. The new members of the Council
—Messrs. Whitney, Worden, Riley, Warren,
Nolan, Harrod, Baker, Newman, and the
Misses Stansfield and Wooldridge—were for-
mally introduced and welcomed by the chair-
man. The National Executive Council also
appointed the various standing committees.

N.A.L.G.O. NEW HOLIDAY CENTRE

As announced at the Annual Conference at
Cheltenham, the Association has decided to
purchase a private and residential hotel standing
in its own grounds at Rhos-on-Sea, North
Wales. The hotel is being taken over from
July 1, fully furnished and as a going concern.
It is two minutes from the sea and a number of
bedrooms actually overlook the sea. It is
known as

CEFN-Y-MYNACH PRIVATE HOTEL,
COLLEGE AVENUE,
RHOS-ON-SEA.

At present the hotel caters for a first-class
clientele and the rates vary from 4½ to 5 guineas
per week. It will be carried on by the Associa-
tion on precisely similar lines to the present,
but the terms will be as follows:—

Members of N.A.L.G.O. and their Dependants.
—£3 6s. 6d. per week (9s. 6d. per day). Children
under twelve years at half rates.

*Non-members of N.A.L.G.O. (accompanied by
members).*—£3 13s. 6d. per week (9s. 6d. per
day). Children under twelve years at half rates.

Lock-up Garage, 5s. per week or 1s. per day.

The house is beautifully furnished and
contains every modern convenience for the
comfort of guests, including hot and cold
running water in each bedroom and central
heating. Members will be delighted with the
place, and no member need have the slightest
hesitation in booking accommodation.

The accommodation consists of seventeen
double bedrooms and five single rooms. Some
of this has already been let by the present
owners, but the major portion of it is available
for members, and bookings can be accepted
now for any period from July 1. The house
will remain open all the year round. There is
a grass tennis court for the use of visitors.

Rhos-on-Sea is a continuation of Colwyn
Bay and the nearest station is Colwyn Bay,
but College Avenue is served by buses, trams,
and electric run-abouts. All of these vehicles
stop at the end of the avenue. The Rhos Golf
Club is five minutes away, and the new Salt
Water Swimming Pool is only three minutes
distant.

Illustrated literature and application forms
are obtainable from the Branch Secretaries or
from Headquarters or direct from the Manageress,
Cefn-y-Mynach Private Hotel, College
Avenue, Rhos-on-Sea, to whom all applications
for accommodation should be forwarded.

B. and O. FUND—PURSE SESSION CONFERENCE 1935

Purses have been received from the following
branches since Conference which, in the
aggregate, now make the total received
£15,924 19s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.
North-West Durham	8 15 6
Eccles	2 4 5
Southall-Norwood	1 2 6
Boote	38 0 0
Chesterfield R.D.C.	1 1 0
Lancashire C.C.	72 10 6
Bournemouth	7 3 0
Neath Boro.	10 3 11
Grand Total	£15,924 19 5

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percent-
age increase over the level of July, 1914, in the
Cost of Living Index for the past six months :—
January, 43; February, 42; March, 41; April
39; May, 39; June, 40. The percentage in-
creases in each of the five groups on which the
Index Figure is based are as follows :—

	Apr.	May	June
Food	..	19	18 20
Rent	..	56	58 58
Clothing	..	90	90 90
Fuel and Light	..	75	70 70
Other Items	..	70	70 70

"BEANO, 1935"

To the Editor of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—Will you allow me, through your
columns, to express my hearty thanks, as
Editor of the 1935 "Beano" (on behalf of my
Committee and the members of my staff who
worked so hard to secure a good result) for the
very generous way in which Local Secretaries
responded to our Cheltenham appeal and
disposed of large numbers of the magazine for
the benefit of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

It was a worthy object, for which we all
worked with a zest, and when the outstanding
accounts are paid in the net gain to the Benevo-
lent Fund will be in the region of £600—a
magnificent return for all the work we have
put into the venture.

Thanks to one and all who contributed to
this success.

Yours etc.,

E. J. BURROW,
Editor, and Chairman of the Cheltenham B. & O.
Committee.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The attention of all members is
called to the change of address of the
Official Insurance Brokers of the
N.A.L.G.O. Motor Insurance scheme,
which took place on the 24th June last.
The new address, telephone and tele-
graphic address are as follows :—

52-54 Gracechurch Street, London,
E.C.3. Telephone: Mansion House
5626—10 lines. Telegrams: Enfrizzell,
Bilgate, London.

Local Government Service

*Editorial and Advertisement Offices,
3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London,
W.C.2.*

Telephone: Holborn 2827-2828-2829.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

THE CHELTENHAM CONFERENCE

THE Cheltenham Conference is now a memory and a matter of record, but it is a very pleasant memory, and one that will last for a long time to come. It will be remembered for two things: first, the high standard of efficiency of local organisation, and, second, the serious drop in the standard of the debates in the Conference Chamber. The one outstanding feature of previous Conferences has been the quality and dignity of the discussions, but this year the most generous minded could not class the debates of the Cheltenham Conference in the same category as those of previous gatherings. If such a demonstration serves as a lesson, then the experience will not have been in vain.

No Real Dissatisfaction

We were nervous that something of the kind would happen when we saw the Agenda. The National Executive Council will have to learn how to put down notices of motion which will call for the best brains in the Conference to discuss. One of the handicaps which N.A.L.G.O. suffers from is its own success. Notwithstanding several loose remarks that N.A.L.G.O. is not getting on with the bread-and-butter policy, it is the absence of any real dissatisfaction that gives time to the idle mind to use the Agenda for "having a go" at the National Executive Council.

The most futile example of this was when the mover of the motion on Whitleyism and the mover on "Burnham" scales, each in turn placed the blame on the inaction of the National Executive Council. Yet, both advocates damned the other's policy; the two methods are diametrically opposed, and the Conference itself had not made up its mind which to "plump for." As debating

points, both motions gave first-class scope, but that was thrown away by the movers of the motions having nothing better in their "briefs" than an attack on the National Executive Council.

We must remember that N.A.L.G.O.'s position in the world of organisation and in Local Government is put very high by outsiders, and everybody should remember this when speaking "in public."

Altogether, there was a complete absence of conviction in any statement from the platform, and from the floor of the house there was little more than platform baiting.

There seems to have jumped into the picture during recent years a type of young man who is more concerned with scoring debating points than making serious contributions to the betterment of organisation and the uplift of N.A.L.G.O.'s prestige. This is a kind of disease which can become serious if not checked.

But let us leave this disaster behind and turn our thoughts to the brighter side of the Conference. Cheltenham, a really delightful town, is situated in one of the most charming corners of England.

Whole-hearted Welcome

The welcome which the delegates received was wholehearted; it extended beyond the official representatives of the town, for the hotel proprietors, the tradesmen, the shopkeepers, and everyone seemed only too anxious to make N.A.L.G.O. welcome, and the kindness of the people of Cheltenham has made a lasting impression on the hearts of the members of N.A.L.G.O.

Very few people realise what an enormous amount of work is put upon the Local Conference Council in making preparations for this annual gathering. Only those who have been intimately connected with a conference have any idea of its magnitude. This year the Conference Secretary was a woman—Miss E. I. N. Bradshaw—and she did her job "as well as any man," but with the additional charm of manner which no man can ever hope to attain.

A Woman's Conference

It was a woman's conference and one of the very best.

The Mayor of Cheltenham—Councillor E. L. Ward, J.P.—and his very delightful wife—Mrs. Ward—were just charming. Their thoughtfulness for the comfort and enjoyment of everyone was unobtrusive, was genuine and gracious. Mr. W. J. Bach, the Electrical Engineer, Chairman of the Conference Council and President of the Cheltenham Branch, made a wonderful impression on all with whom he came in contact; his speeches at the various functions were happy, and friendly, and, although his responsibilities must have been heavy, he gave the impression that he carried them lightly, and N.A.L.G.O. will always have a strong affection for him. There were others

who worked like Trojans but were not in the "spot-light"; and although it is not possible to mention them all, we must pay tribute to Mr. W. J. Board, Deputy Town Clerk, and Mr. G. A. M. Wilkinson, the Entertainments Manager.

Altogether, Cheltenham was a happy Conference.

A Courageous Address

On the official side, it would not be right to pass on from Cheltenham without paying tribute to the splendid Chairmanship of the President—Dr. A. Wotherspoon. He conducted the proceedings as well as any of his predecessors, and his presidential address was one which the members of N.A.L.G.O. will remember for a long time; it had more courage in it than all the rest of the speeches from the platform put together. There is no doubt that the Presidential year of Dr. Wotherspoon will remain a cherished memory, both by himself and by thousands of the members. He was unsparing of himself and his time in responding to the calls of the Branches and District Committees, and he rose to great heights whilst presiding over the Cheltenham Conference.

THE CENTENARY YEAR

WE are only half-way through the Local Government Centenary year, and although this very important anniversary has been temporarily overshadowed during the last few weeks by the glorious tribute paid to His Majesty the King, during his Silver Jubilee, we must not lose sight of the fact that there are still six months in which to pay homage to Local Government. The real centenary dates happen in the "fall" of the year, and once the holiday months are over it is to be hoped there will be renewed effort put into the centenary celebrations.

The next event will be the Centenary Cruise, when 450 members of the Association and their immediate relatives and friends, set sail by the S.S. *Doric* at Tilbury on the 3rd August, making the first port of call Oslo on the 5th, and other calls will be made at Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsingfors, Leningrad, Riga, Zoppot and Hamburg. During these calls many Local Government Institutions will be visited, and it is hoped that this tour will make a lasting and valuable contribution to comparative study of what other countries can do in the field of Local Government.

THE NEW HOLIDAY CENTRE

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that there were one or two speakers at the Conference who, for the want of a real argument, used the gibe which sounds well but is really meaningless, that the Association is attending more to its

(Continued on page 206, col. 3)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Continued)

ESTABLISHMENT OF WHITLEY COUNCILS

view of the important developments fore-shadowed for the year 1935.

Whitleyism or National Scales?

The Cambridgeshire Branch submitted the following notice of motion:

"That this conference deplores the lack of progress made in the establishment of a complete system of Whitley Councils for local government officers and requests the National Executive Council to take immediate steps to call conferences of representatives of local authorities and branches at suitable centres, with a view to the establishment of Provincial Councils for the areas not covered by existing Councils."

MR S. W. EDWARDS (Cambridgeshire) moving the motion, said in 1933 the N.E.C. suggested one of the main aims of the Association would be to secure the general recognition of the principle of collective bargaining and tabled a series of motions under the heading of "A Complete System of Whitley Councils," which conference accepted. Since then the matter had been pushed over to the district committees and here there was a little trouble, one district committee wishing to take one sort of action and another committee different action. He felt there had been lack of direction and co-ordination from the N.E.C. in this matter and if they went on at the present rate they would still be wondering when Whitleyism was coming at the 200th anniversary celebration of local government.

MR. BRIGHT (Glamorgan County Officers' Branch) submitted the following amendment on behalf of the branch:

"That this conference is of the opinion that national scales of salaries and national service conditions will not be achieved through the National Whitley Council and therefore instructs the National Executive Council to proceed forthwith to obtain recognition of the Local Government Service on the same basis as that of the teachers and police."

He said in Glamorgan they felt that the conference and the Association had been too much concerned with ancillary activities and the time had come when they should go out for a bold national policy. They felt it was the fundamental right of the local government officer to be treated nationally and not locally where he was made the cockpit of local politics. No word was heard about the teacher or policeman at election times, but they heard a lot about the wicked officials and the salaries they got. He could anticipate some of the replies he would get; doubtless they would be told of the glories of Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Councils, but what had they done for their friends from Oldham? They wanted a policy which was going to help 100 per cent. of the officers. The Glamorgan Branch was simply asking that they aim high and in this centenary year set out to achieve something for every member of the Association.

MR. BEVAN (Glamorgan) seconded.

MR. FRASER (Dumbarton) supported the amendment, declaring the Association were not concerned with maintaining any school of thought, but with drawing all units together in a common policy. To sit down "twiddling their thumbs," waiting for a slow and painful evolutionary process was unworthy of the Association. If the N.E.C. were at fault, he would support the motion, but they were not at fault and had done everything that could be expected of them to promote the principles of Whitleyism. Whitleyism as a voluntary measure could never be established unless the will to co-operate was firmly planted in the minds of employers and employed.

MR. L. H. TAYLOR (North Western District Committee) supported the motion and opposed the amendment, saying this was a serious matter of major policy, affecting the "bread and butter" of every officer in the country. Mr.

Bright had regretted that the local government officer had been the cock-shy of every local politician and it was a fact that in many localities the local government officer was put up merely to be knocked down. If there was one means by which it could be avoided, it was through Whitleyism. There was no doubt in the districts where Whitleyism was in force the question of salaries had been taken out of local politics. He had been for ten years a member of the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council and 95 per cent. of the officers in the area were covered by the Whitley Council scales of salaries, and as recently as the last meeting it was reported that the Oldham Town Council, after years of effort by the Association, had decided to become constituent members of the Whitley Council. More than that, they had asked the Council to prepare a grading scheme to cover the whole of their officers. (Applause.) That was what Whitleyism could do if it was given a fair chance.

Conciliation and Goodwill

MR. COLE (Plymouth) humorously remarked he was sorry he had not brought his gramophone record of previous speeches he had made on this question. Those associated with the Glamorgan amendment, including himself, did not say Whitleyism in principle was wrong. They were all agreed the only way to achieve anything was by conciliation and goodwill between employers and employed, but they were disappointed at the lack of progress. With the delay in setting up Whitley Councils they were getting nowhere; there should be national scales of salaries and service conditions for the local government officer in the same way as there are for the Civil Service.

MR. WOODCOCK (West Riding) said Whitleyism had been tried but was not the success they expected and they now declared in favour of national scales of salaries which they asked the N.E.C. to put before the government immediately.

One delegate suggested Whitleyism could be described as a "doubtful starter" in many areas, and national scales as a "probable winner" although a slower "horse."

MR. WILKINSON (National Executive Council) reminded the conference that two years ago they definitely decided that Whitleyism was the method of approach for improved salary and service conditions. The Whitley Councils in existence at the present moment were legislating for 35,000 local government officers and did they want to scrap that? If they could get the Government to move, action would be much simplified and their efforts had been continuous in that direction. If they had been to the Ministry of Labour once, they had been dozens of times and they hoped eventually to succeed. They had set up a Standing Committee through which they hoped to re-establish the National Whitley Council. What was decided two years ago was being faithfully carried out by the Executive.

The amendment was defeated, a further amendment by the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee, to insert the words "subject to the approval of the district committee concerned," being carried.

The motion, as amended, was agreed to.

A Superannuation Victory

MR. RILEY (North Western District) referred to the paragraph in the section on "Poor Law Transferred Officers" in the N.E.C. report, where the successful appeal in the case of "Gissing v. the Corporation of Liverpool" was detailed. (The case was fully reported in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE, August, 1934.) He expressed grateful thanks to the Executive Council on behalf of his District Committee and also the Liverpool Branch for the defence made of the superannuation rights of this transferred officer. The action, he said, had brought into superannuation in Liverpool some 600

officers and he thought conference would agree the Executive's action was well worth while. (Applause.)

Educational Loans

The Executive reported:

"Eleven applications for loans for educational purposes have been considered. In one case the application was subsequently withdrawn; in one case the application was not granted as it did not come within the scope of the rules and in nine cases loans have been granted, for periods varying from one to ten years. The total amount of the loans granted, excluding insurance, administrative and legal costs, is £313 16s. od."

"The examinations in connection with which the borrowers have been granted loans are:—

London University Degrees	..	3
Manchester University Degrees	..	1
Liverpool University D.P.A.	..	1
Bar Examinations	..	2
Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors	..	2

The South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee submitted the following amendment:

"That the National Executive Council be asked in the light of their experience of the working of the Loan Scheme for Educational Purposes to give the question of extending the Loan Scheme their consideration and submit a report to the 1936 conference."

MR. H. MORRIS moving the amendment said there were innumerable expenses, such as tuition fees, travelling expenses, examination fees and books to be taken into consideration by students, and none of these things could form the basis of a loan under the present scheme. He did not suggest conference should go in for an enlargement of the scheme, but that the N.E.C., in light of their experience of the working of the present scheme, should report to conference for their further consideration.

MR. H. N. SCHRADER (Smethwick) seconding said evidently the scheme was not fulfilling the object with which it was formed, as only £31 out of the estimated £7,000 had been advanced in the first year.

MR. CHASTON (N.E.C.) said the council had already had a special report with regard to the operation of the scheme. There were certain directions in which it could be expanded and he accepted the reference to council.

MR. COYNE (Mid-Surrey) said that Rule in the Scholarship Scheme of N.A.L.G.O. which stated awards would only be made in the case of candidates who had taken the whole of the examination at one and the same time automatically ruled out candidates taking the final examination of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers, which was definitely divided in two parts. He moved that the words "at one and the same time" be deleted.

MR. CHASTON said there was considerable point in the question raised and he was sure the Education Committee would act upon the suggestion. He asked they be allowed to revise the rule and this was agreed, the amendment not being put to a vote.

Centenary Celebrations

On the report of the National Executive Council regarding the arrangements made to celebrate the centenary year, MR. M. E. FIRTH (East Ham) said he had been instructed by his branch to express regret that the council had not taken the fullest advantage of the centenary year in focusing public attention on the work of local government and more particularly the work of the local government officer. He asked the Executive to consider the possibility of making a film, to be included as parts of news or interest films, in cinemas throughout the country.

The PRESIDENT replied the possibility of s

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Continued)

Sir H. JACKSON, M.P., ON SUPERANNUATION

a film had not been overlooked, but they were informed the cost would be prohibitive.

Mr. FITCH said even prohibitive cost should not have been allowed to stand in the way. The reserve fund might justifiably have been used for the purpose and he moved the Executive be asked to consider the question.

The PRESIDENT: Is that irrespective of cost?

Mr. FITCH: I am prepared to say irrespective of cost.

The motion was lost.

Benefit Scheme Withdrawn

The National Executive Council reported they had decided to inaugurate a scheme to encourage continuous membership in N.A.L.G.O., whereby when a member reached the age of twenty-one years, the Association would pay to the Nalgo Provident Society the amount standing to the member's credit in accumulated subscriptions, to be credited to the member's deposit account.

Mr. W. H. WHINNERAH (chairman of the Provident Society) said the Executive had had a further opportunity of considering the scheme since the printing of the agenda and the report would be withdrawn for the time being, as it was felt there had been some misconception, and members had not had sufficient time to consider it.

This was unanimously agreed, and amendments standing in the names of the Yorkshire District Committee, Glamorgan County Officers' Branch, and the Huddersfield Branch accordingly were not proceeded with.

At this point, before calling upon the members of Parliament to speak, the president read a telegram from the Mayor of Scarborough, which was received with applause: "May your deliberations be successful and your return to Scarborough speedy."

ADDRESSES BY

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Addresses were then given by Sir Henry Jackson, Bart., Sir William Jenkins and Mr. Isaac Foot, three of the Association's supporters in Parliament.

Sir Henry Jackson said it was a tonic to stand here and see that great assembly. It was a wonderful sight and he hoped he might be worthy of all the opportunities they had given him for service and the confidence they had always shown in him. His Majesty the King had conferred an honour upon their secretary, and his first words must be not only to bear a message from his colleagues in the House of Commons to Mr. Hill, but also to express his own personal gratitude and joy at the honour. In that Honour List, none was more richly deserved or so universally welcome. In St. Paul's Cathedral on the monument to Sir Christopher Wren were the words, "If you want his memorial, look around," and if they wanted to see Mr. Hill's memorial they had to look around, not only at that great meeting but on that great, fine body of local government officers whose representatives were present. There was one man in Great Britain who could honestly and truly be called the architect and organiser of that great institution, Mr. Hill himself. (Applause.)

Twenty-six Years Ago

Twenty-six years ago, when the organisation came under his inspiration and ægis, it had only £100 in the bank, no office, a solitary type-writer and few members; to-day there were 10,000 members, invested funds representing a million, total funds representing over two millions, and that was Mr. Hill's work. Therefore, when His Majesty handed to him that great Order of Commander of the British Empire, no one would have more worthily earned it or continue to justify it. As the southpiece of a very great audience, he congratulated Mr. Hill. (Prolonged applause.)

They were meeting at Cheltenham under very great conditions, continued Sir Henry. This was the Jubilee Year of His Majesty, twenty-five years of wonderful service, and he ventured to say amidst the triumphs of those twenty-five years there was nothing more

superannuation during the past year, remarking the conference had rightly decided the government should be pressed until the victory of compulsory superannuation had been won. No one had prosecuted that ideal with greater vigour than their National Executive Council, and they had secured an immense achievement in getting the material for an agreed Bill between all the authorities. For the first time in the history of the campaign for compulsory superannuation, a goal towards which the Association has been working for thirteen years, victory was in sight. "I do not think I am too optimistic," concluded Sir Henry, "when I say that before the commencement of the next Session of Parliament, it is hoped in addition to the bodies representing the employers and employed side, agreement will be reached between the Ministry of Health and other government departments, so that before we meet again next year, this Bill will be on the Statute Book. Local, government officers owe a debt to N.A.L.G.O. and to local government for this great achievement; I can assure you we shall press on until this final victory is attained. Security of tenure and superannuation are your due." (Applause.)

Sir William Jenkins, M.P.

Sir William Jenkins said he was delighted to have the first opportunity of being present at a N.A.L.G.O. conference. Unfortunately, he had not been able to accept their invitations before. He had spent thirty-six years on local authorities and if asked whether he would prefer to remain a member of Parliament or a member of local government, he would prefer the local government. He would talk to them that morning about the position of the depressed areas and would remind them that it depended a good deal on the feeling exhibited in the country what the ultimate result of local government in the depressed areas would be, because, unfortunately, depression tended to bring down local government, and this might end in an impasse difficult to move. Upon local authorities rested the responsibility of making all provisions necessary to meet the needs of the people in localities where the industry had gone and the people remained, and he would pay a tribute to the local government officers who had to work in these depressed areas, working continuously to solve the problem of depression. He had never met a more loyal or harder working body of men.

They had to carry the burden of unemployment and public assistance, and he would like to convince all present that morning that the responsibility of carrying that burden should be a national one and not for local authorities alone. If they equalised the burden there would be a chance for the people living in the depressed areas. (Applause.) Local government officers working in those areas were depressed in the same way, because much as they would like, local authorities in those areas were not able to give the officers the treatment they would like because of the burden pressing upon the whole of the people who had to pay the rates.

Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P.

Mr. Isaac Foot expressed pleasure at meeting his friends of the N.A.L.G.O. Conference again and recalled that twelve years ago on the conference platform with him were his colleagues in the House, Sir Herbert Nield and Mr. Willie Graham, whose services to their cause were never likely to be forgotten. He joined in paying his tribute to Mr. Hill—he did not know a man more unobtrusively efficient—and he congratulated him on the honour conferred upon him. (Applause.) It was a pleasure, continued Mr. Foot, to meet them all not only at the conference but at the social functions and at church on Sunday morning. He hoped they had noticed the only one of the three Members of Parliament who attended the service was

(Continued on page 204)



SIR HENRY JACKSON, Bart., M.P.

striking than the great progress of local government. The amazing outburst of national gratitude and thanks to Their Majesties, not only in great but humble places, was very largely due to the improved condition of his subjects during those twenty-five years. The fact that the King and his family at all times gave ungrudging service of heart and head to anything that benefited his subjects drew that great demonstration of affection and loyalty, and the King did literally indeed become the father of a great family.

In that achievement, no one had contributed more than local government officers and all they stood for, because in the end it was the work of local government which really mattered to the men, women and children of this country. National Government, when all was said and done, was insurance against the major calamities of life—war, internal disorder, violence and actual destitution—but the things that mattered—health, transport, housing, public assistance, education—all those things which made the difference between brightness and shadow, in the end were the administrative work of local government, and it was the great co-operation between the voluntary elected representatives on the one hand, and the splendid service whose delegates were before him, that the responsibility for the great efficiency of that service lay. Each conference emphasised the need for new recruits and, if possible, more efficiency, to be equal to the increasing responsibility which Parliament kept putting on local government.

A Great Ideal

The Association stood for all that the Hadow Report stood for—to make the Local Government Service greater and greater still. That was a great ideal and a great ambition, and just as they were determined that great service should be worthy of its opportunities, so the public on their side had a stern responsibility to see officers were adequately rewarded and compensated for that determination. If they were going to have efficient service there was the obligation on employers or Parliament to see their service was worthy of all, both in reward, security and efficiency.

Sir Henry then dealt with what had been done in the matter of securing compulsory

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Continued)

Sir WILLIAM JENKINS, M.P.

himself. (Laughter.) Looking back twelve years to the position of the Association then, they had something like 30,000 members; now there were 80,000.

They would allow him, he thought—because he did not know how long he would have the privilege of addressing them—to say something of the peril that came sometimes with the progress of an institution of that kind. "I am associated," said Mr. Foot, "with a good many institutions. Sometimes with the increased membership, the added funds and the higher prestige there comes the peril to an institution that comes to every one of us—the danger of forgetting the spirit of the institution in the institution itself. Those who began this institution in the days of hardship, adversity and difficulty, did it because they wanted to establish a principle and an ideal. I would like to say, when your funds have grown to millions and you have passed the 100,000 mark, I regard it as only the outward and visible sign of that spirit which is essential to our country. I heard this morning something about "bread and butter" politics; your organisation, although something of a trade union, is very much more. There is the insistence to be put upon position, salaries, privileges and emoluments, but there are two ways of ensuring that. One is by direct pressure and the other is by raising in the public mind the whole stature, status and prestige of local government."

The Association's Power

Continuing, Mr. Foot remarked that the president, in his address, had said every member of their organisation had that primary duty. In some ways their organisation would be the most powerful in the land, and it was because of their power he believed that power was to be exercised more effectively through restraint and with a high sense of responsibility. Officers represented the citizen and the government, where it came into touch with the citizen. It was all very well for gentlemen in the House of Commons to pass Acts, but they were down at the point of human contact and his sympathy was with the men who had to transfer suddenly, and often without guidance, those Acts into immediate administration. If government was to be reconciled to the people of this country, it was through the officers' ministrations rather than the work of members of Parliament.

Mr. Foot repeated the opinions he expressed at the last two conferences on the subject of liberty, saying: "I believe the defence of freedom in this generation is to be in the defence of representative institutions. I can never see representative institutions being only in Parliament at Westminster and in the Dominions; representative institutions have expressed them-

Mr. ISAAC FOOT'S ADDRESS

selves in every town and village of this land. That is where the defence must be made."

In reply to calls for a speech, Mr. Dingle Foot briefly acknowledged the compliment, saying he was glad to have the pleasure and privilege of again attending the conference. "If I do not say more at this sudden notice," he concluded, "it is because of the truth said the other day by the Lord Chief Justice, that 'extempore speeches are not worth the paper they are written on.' (Laughter.)

Mr. BUNN proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, saying Mr. Lloyd had made one omission in the balance sheet; he had omitted to put in the capital value of the kindly co-operation and interest of these four gentlemen in the aims of N.A.L.G.O. This was an asset of appreciation; it need not be written down by 10 per cent. a year, but written up by 50 per cent. a year. (Applause.)

MR. SUMMERTFIELD seconded, and the vote was carried with acclamation, Sir Henry Jackson briefly responding.

Thanks to the N.E.C.

On resumption, MISS STANSFIELD (Manchester) proposed a vote of thanks to the National Executive Council, remarking she wished she could refer individually to the work they had done. Members appreciated the valuable and expert contribution each one brought to the management of their affairs. They would not wish her to propose the vote of thanks without making some reference to the loss they were going to sustain by the retirement of Mrs. Franks. They had every reason to be proud of her, not only for ten years' devotion as a member of the council and the work she had done in her branch, but they were proud of the place she had taken as a pioneer in the sphere of women's work in public health. They hoped in retirement she would have the full measure of health and happiness she deserved.

MR. CROW of Leeds was called upon to second the motion, but as he was not in the conference hall, MR. WILGOOSE (Leeds) did so, causing a roar of laughter by his introduction "in the absence of the other bird."

MR. WILLETT, acknowledging the vote, which was carried with acclamation, referred to the "great controversy we had *in camera*," and hoped delegates during the next twelve months would consider carefully the great forward policy which the council had tried to place before them.

Compensation Question

The Doncaster Branch submitted the following notice of motion:—

"That this conference instructs the National Executive Council to consider the position of local government officers—outside the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Acts—in the event of their sustaining injury, or death in the performance of their duties, with a view to the necessary steps being taken to secure protection for such officers and their dependents."

The London County Council Branch submitted the following amendment:—

"That the motion of the Doncaster Branch be amended by the deletion of the words 'outside the scope of the Workmen's Compensation Acts' and the substitution of 'and to take such steps as may be necessary for the promotion of new legislation or amendment of existing Acts of Parliament to secure adequate protection for all officers and their dependents' for the words 'with a view to the necessary steps being taken to secure protection for such officers and their dependents.'

It was agreed to incorporate the amendment in the motion and this was carried.

Nalgo Approved Society

A motion given by the Yorkshire District Committee and the Leeds Branch that the annual meeting of the Nalgo Approved Society

should be held at the time and place of conference was carried.

Aberdeen Next Year

The president introduced the question of the venue of the next conference with the words "We are now coming to rather a thorny problem."

There were invitations for 1936 conference from Margate, Ayr, Largs Burgh, Aberdeen and Clacton, the National Executive Council recommending acceptance of the invitation from the Aberdeen Town Council.

MR. S. H. BRODIE (Glasgow) suggested a vote should be taken as between Scotland and England, pointing out it had been an established precedent since 1921 that every five years the conference visited Scotland.

The majority of delegates voted for Scotland and Aberdeen was chosen as the venue.

THE NEW PRESIDENT

The new President, Mr. G. W. Coster, was then inducted into the presidential chair and invested with the badge of office. Dr. Wotherspoon, introducing his successor, said Mr. Coster had a full realisation of what N.A.L.G.O. meant to all of them. He had been vice-president for the last two years, and during the time he had put in a great deal of work on behalf of the Association and had visited districts all over the country. In his own district Liverpool, of course, he was best known. Some of those who had been criticising the celebrations of the centenary could have seen some of the events held throughout the country; they would have had a slightly different opinion of the attempts made to bring that celebration before the general public. One of the most magnificent spectacles was the banquet in Liverpool at which Mr. Coster presided. That banquet there was a splendid company and the things said about the Association such people as Lord Derby made those who had the privilege to be there feel there was something good in the Association and a good deal of it was known to others besides themselves. Mr. Coster had already had half a century's work in the public service and during that time he had held posts all over the country and at present was Superintendent Registrar at Liverpool and Clerk to the West Derby Assessment Committee. He was also a member of the Board of Management of Logomia and a member of the

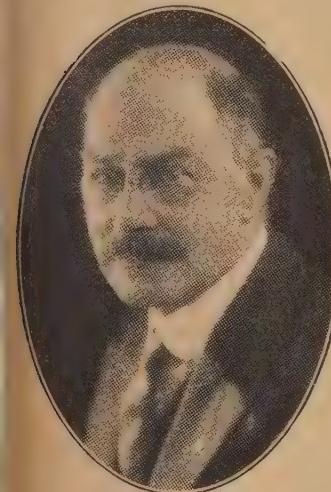


Mr. ISAAC FOOT, M.P.

Central Valuation Committee. He hoped he would have as happy a year of office as himself had enjoyed during the past five years. (Applause.)

Mr. Coster, who was cordially received,

ing invested with the president's badge and taking the chair, returned thanks for the confidence placed in him. The emblem of office, he said, had been handed to him by the gentleman who had had it for the last twelve months as inscribed as it was when he received it. Lustre had been added to it by the fact of its having been worn by his distinguished predecessor during an exemplary period of presidency. He thanked the members for the compliment and paid him, a compliment which he regarded as being partly related to that section of the local government service to which he was formerly attached, the public assistance section, which required as much attention, knowledge, sympathy and efficient administration now as it did at any time during the last 100 years. If emphasis were necessary, their selection that day would prove that as members of the National Poor Law Officers' Association they were welcomed by N.A.L.G.O. five years ago—they were now members of N.A.L.G.O. in entirety. With their co-operation and the assistance of the General Secretary and the members of the efficient staff, it would be his devoir to justify their selection during a year when the anticipations pointed to something making rather huge demands on the



MR. WALTER J. BACHE,
Borough Electrical Engineer, Cheltenham,
Chairman of the Local Conference
Council.

executive. Concluding, Mr. Coster presented Dr. Wotherspoon a replica of the president's badge. (Cheers.)

Dr. Wotherspoon briefly acknowledged and proposed a composite vote of thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress of Cheltenham; to the members of the Corporation; to Aldermanites and other members of the Chamber of Commerce; to the local conference chairman and secretary, and members of the local conference council; to the Rector of Cheltenham (Rev. M. Gordon Sheldon); to Councillor Brown and his staff in connection with "Jeane"; to the secretary and committee of Cotswold Hills Golf Club; to the secretary and committee of the Cheltenham Bowling Club; and to the United Chemists Association, Ltd. (U.C.A.L.) for opening their sports ground to delegates.

Mr. BACHE replied, saying it was the members of the local conference committee who had done the work, not himself.

Miss BRADSHAW, the conference secretary, responded and was received with prolonged cheers, the president presenting her with a bouquet from the National Executive Council.

The conference then concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne—all the delegates joining—followed by the National Anthem.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Continued)

CONFERENCE ASIDES

BY INQUISITOR

MY first word must be one of congratulation to the ex-President who closed an excellent year of service to N.A.L.G.O. with masterly control of the conference proceedings. He even said something in Welsh, a language Sir William Jenkins said he dare not use as a medium of address.

The weather was typical of conferences in general and N.A.L.G.O. in particular—uncertain in its movements, reaching gale-force at times. At least the golfers found it a little too much for them on the Cotswolds: even "Darrie" gave up after one round—I'm speaking of golf. It is not true, however, that a prominent member given to slicing badly had his ball returned from Malvern.

Was it the centenary of Local Government which determined the Cheltenham Branch to "hang out the banners on the 'inner' walls" (if one may be permitted to paraphrase Shakespeare)? It would be observed that "Gas" was in the centre of the hall—not over the platform—whilst "Electricity" appeared opposite to it. Two opposing luminary forces in harmony for once.

I ought to have asked the Cheltenham artist for a description of the N.A.L.G.O. coat-of-arms above the platform. It was not easy to determine the sex of some of the figures despite their wings sprouting: the dexter figure representing oratory (?) was probably a She(-e).

Fancy Fraser going out of his way to tell us that the Guest House in Scotland is not wanted for any other purpose than that of getting money out of Englishmen!

"The Other Bird"

One of the most humorous "asides" was the appearance of Mr. Wildgoose to speak in place of "the other bird," Mr. Crow. There are, I believe, little coteries of members foregathered at Conference—a mysterious body known as the Dorcasians for example—why not a little gathering of the Avarians? On this occasion in addition to the "birds" already mentioned there would have been a brace of Woodcock, a pair of Martins and a "single" Swallow: sufficient excuse for a meeting and dinner.

Who were the delegates who, walking down "The Promenade" in bathing costumes and forgetting Conference was meeting in an inland town, asked a policeman the way to the beach?

Wasn't the "local" secretary one of the most charming and efficient we have experienced and

will there be anything to equal her in Fraseland next year?

Wasn't Bradshaw a suitable name for so excellent a guide?

I have read a little concerning the psychology of "crowds": will someone skilled in the study of "mind" tell us something about the psychology of conferences. For example, one would imagine that speakers from the platform have an advantage over those addressing Conference from the floor of the house, but this is not so, generally.

There appears to be a sympathy shown to the latter, whilst the former senses an undercurrent of suspicion. The feeling is not easy to define, perhaps it is the very sight of the "choir," to use but one of the not-too-complimentary references to the gentlemen on the platform which inflames delegates, and if this is so why not have conference meeting next year at Aberdeen and the N.E.C. at, say, Margate and use the telephone if necessary?

Anyway it was a great conference and here's to the next!



MISS E. I. N. BRADSHAW,
Hon. Secretary of the Local Conference
Council.

DELEGATES

AT CHURCH

On Sunday morning, between 300 and 400 delegates assembled at the Municipal Offices and headed by the Mayor and Corporation, the President, the Chairman of the Cheltenham Branch, and other officers, proceeded to St. Matthews Church for divine service, specially arranged for the Conference. It was conducted by the Rev. L. G. M. Sheldon, M.A., Rector of Cheltenham, who also gave the address.

The hymns included Blake's "Jerusalem."

The Mayor read the first lesson and the Chairman of the Cheltenham Branch read the second lesson.

The Rector based his address on the words from St. Luke's Gospel: "And a certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho," saying he took that road, which was a marvel of engineering, as an illustration of man's road through life. It was the task of government officials to see that man's journey through life shall be as safe and as happy as it possibly could be. Life would never become one long smooth by-pass road—it would always have its ups and downs, its turns and twists. The Jericho road would always be an apt picture of life, yet

an astonishing amount had been done to make life more tolerable as a journey and to ensure that fewer travellers fell out by the road. It was the task of the country's Central Government to make laws for the safety of man's road of life and it was the duty of our local government to carry them out. Routine work may sound a little prosy, but he would suggest to them that upon their work may depend whether some people decided life was worth living or not. But there were some who fell out on the road of life; some fell among thieves and he was glad to a certain extent the work of the Good Samaritan was in the hands of the voluntary workers. When a man was down and out, he needed a very human touch from a very human heart. As officials, he asked them to keep the human touch when they were dealing with those who were unfortunate, trying to touch their lives in a way which would permanently help and cheer them. It was a great work which, in one sphere or another, they were combining to do for England.

After the service, the congregation returned to the Municipal Offices, where the President laid a wreath on the War Memorial.

COUNTY BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES' MEETING

REPRESENTATIVES of County Council Branches held a meeting at the Town Hall, Cheltenham on June 7, to discuss matters of special interest to County Staffs.

Mr. J. E. Gee (Lancashire County Branch) was elected to take the chair and the minutes of the Scarborough meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

The chairman said there were two or three matters which came up on the Conference agenda affecting county branches, the principal one being the organisation of county branches. He had had no communications from any delegates making suggestions as to matters for discussion at the meeting.

Dealing with the report of the N.E.C., Mr. H. Allen (West Riding) said the report regarding the organisation of county staffs was one of the most vital to all county branch members throughout the country. County branch representatives on the Executive found themselves this year in a rather serious position when it was found that quite a number of county branches were not organised, by which he meant no provision was being made for officers in the outlying districts in the counties.

One week-end was spent in going through the various methods of organisation and finally the decision as contained in the report of the National Executive was arrived at. He impressed upon representatives of county branches the necessity that organising, under Scheme A should be put into operation wherever possible, but where that was impracticable, reference should be had to the alternative Scheme B.

On the suggestion of Mr. N. M. Woodcock (West Riding), several delegates gave their experiences of the working of the two schemes.

Mr. Bright (Glamorgan) said a few years ago his branch was 200 strong and the membership was now about 1,000. This increase had been achieved by going round the various districts and speaking to all employees of the county council, while Guardians Committee Areas had been formed which had representation on the Executive Committee. There were sixty or seventy members of the Executive Committee which met monthly. Third class fares were paid and there was a good attendance at the meetings. He considered this one of the best ways of conducting county branch business.

Mr. W. A. Shee (Kent) contended it was important that the county members should act as an organised body and he would deplore any suggestion coming from a county branch which would encourage members to join other branches in that county. In Kent they had gradually built up sub-branches and the increase in membership was something over 100 members a year. Let county branches stand as a whole and stick to the policy initiated at Edinburgh, when they had a tremendous fight to save Rule 55. Counties could only be

organised satisfactorily by concentrating on certain areas each year.

The chairman said he would like to emphasise from the chair the necessity for all county branches to put into operation one of the two schemes. Mr. Gee referred to a possible amendment to be moved by Norfolk delegates at the Conference and appealed to delegates to support the schemes as laid down.

Mr. Shee then moved "That in the opinion of this meeting, the Schemes A and B meet all the requirements of county branches and that the county branches generally are diametrically opposed to any suggestion of officers joining other branches."

The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. F. E. Cox (London County Council Branch) referred to the co-operation with other vocational organisations and instanced the effort made in London to bring about fusion with the Metropolitan Branch of the National Relieving Officers. This had not been successful but an increase in N.A.L.G.O. membership had resulted.

Thanks were expressed to Mr. Gee for presiding and it was agreed to hold a similar meeting next year.

CIVIC RECEPTION

The civic reception on Friday evening at the Town Hall was a brilliant gathering, and ushered in the Conference in the most agreeable fashion. His Worship the Mayor of Cheltenham and the Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. E. L. Ward) received the guests who numbered close on 2,000. The Mayor of Gloucester was also present. The leading citizens, including many Aldermen and Councillors, with their ladies, attended, and the President, Vice-Presidents and other officers of the Association, with the majority of the members of the National Executive Council were amongst the company.

The spacious hall and apartments, finely illuminated and decorated with palms and flowers, made an impressive scene. The music was delightful. Dancing and cabaret shows occupied the guests until the early hours of Saturday morning.

LUNCHEON TO THE LOCAL CONFERENCE COUNCIL

President Wotherspoon presided on Saturday at the luncheon given at the Queen's Hotel by the National Executive Council to the Local Conference Council. He was supported on his right by Mr. W. J. Bache, the President of the Cheltenham Branch, with the Mayor and Mayoress on the left. There were present the principal public officers and dignitaries of Cheltenham and several distinguished guests.

The President gave the toast of the Conference Council, warmly thanking the members for all they had so well done to make the delegates comfortable and happy.

Mr. Bache replied in a witty speech.

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DINNER TO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

On Monday evening, a complimentary dinner was given in the Town Hall to the National Executive Council, when Mr. W. J. Bache, President of the Cheltenham Branch, presided and once again the Mayor and Mayoress, civic heads and the Members of Parliament and their ladies were present. Mr. Richard Board acted as toastmaster.

After the loyal toast, the chairman presented to Miss Bradshaw a bouquet, in appreciation of the assistance she had given him personally in making the conference arrangements. Miss Bradshaw was accorded musical honours warmly cheered.

The Mayor proposed the toast "N.A.L.G.O." and in the course of his remarks paid a delightful and well deserved tribute to Dr. Wotherspoon for his fine conduct of the Conference proceedings and the charming way he had discharged his presidential duties. Cheltenham had enjoyed their visit and wherever he went he was welcomed as what a fine lot the N.A.L.G.O. people were.

President Coster, responding, said such welcomes as they had received at Cheltenham gave them all tremendous encouragement.

A carnival ball followed, the numbers being considerably augmented for this part of the entertainment by delegates and local friends.

THE NEW HOLIDAY CENTRE

(Continued from page 199)

ancillary activities than to its real jollies, the only affirmative decision given by the Conference was to authorise the National Executive Council to extend its holiday centres, and this decision was given with no uncertain voice.

A House at Rhos-on-Sea

And here is a rapid response to demand. Before our members read this issue there will have passed into control of N.A.L.G.O. a Private Residential Hotel at Rhos-on-Sea, where members and their families can spend their holidays in a manner rather different from Holiday Centres at Cayton Bay and Croyde Bay. The house is beautifully furnished and contains every modern convenience for the comfort of guests, including hot and cold running water in each bedroom and central heating. There is an exceedingly fine garden, a tennis court, and garage accommodation is available. Rhos-on-Sea is a continuation of Colwyn Bay, and those who do not want to explore the magnificent scenery of North Wales could not choose a more convenient Centre combined with first-class Hotel accommodation.

Other Centres Proposed

The Conference also authorised the establishment of another "Camp" on the South Coast, and a second Holiday House in Scotland. These Holiday centres are like the Thrift scheme, a large body of members want the facilities and will have a grumble if they do not get them. Others want something different and something different. Too many members cannot see the bread-and-butter for the jam which is on it.

ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A HISTORICAL RETROSPECT

By J. E. NEALE, Astor Professor of English History in the University of London, Author of "Queen Elizabeth."

The Centenary Oration Delivered to the Annual Conference

ONE hundred years ago Parliament passed the Municipal Corporations Act. The modern history of English local government had commenced; a long chapter of our institutional history had come to an inglorious end. In reading the final pages of that chapter a tidy mind of to-day is inevitably filled with disgust—disgust that reform was so tardy in coming, and perhaps that it was so incomplete when it did come. But that disgust is itself a tribute to the tenacity of the constitutional and legal principles in which the old decrepit system was set. Those principles in their turn are the clue to our political and individual liberty.

Put it another way. A recent critic of our local government wrote: "If one feature characterises local administration in England more than another, it is the utter want of symmetry or system under which it is carried on." Fifty years ago another critic was making much the same comment, though with far more justification: "A chaos of authorities, a chaos of jurisdictions, a chaos of rates, a chaos of franchises, a chaos worst of all of areas." And a hundred years ago, the commissioners charged with reporting on the municipal corporations of England might well, among less charitable expressions of feeling, have echoed a great seventeenth-century antiquary: "Whoso desireth to discourse concerning corporate towns must be allowed a great deal of time and preparation."

This society of ours is set in its history. Revolution looks enviously upon it but passes it by. We may quake at the spectacle of root-and-branch changes in other countries, but we seize firmly hold of the past when adventuring into the future. "In what we improve," wrote Edmund Burke, "we are never wholly new; in what we retain we are never wholly obsolete." In some moods this gospel of conservatism seems merely obstructive. At other times, and particularly in these times of dictatorship abroad, we may thank God that we are not as other men are and share the ecstasy of Burke: "Our political system is placed in a just correspondence and symmetry with the order of the world and with the mode of existence decreed to a permanent body composed of transitory parts; wherein, by the disposition of a stupendous wisdom, moulding together the great mysterious incorporation of the human race, the whole at one time is never old or middle-aged or young, but, in a condition of changeable constancy, moves on through the varied tenor of perpetual decay, fall, renovation, and progression."

"The happy effect of following nature, which is wisdom without reflection," so Burke termed it. Fortunately a historian is not called upon to pronounce with or against him. History perhaps is wise in the way old people are wise, who know that the hopes of youth are illusions. It perhaps is foolish in being a collection of cautionary tales. But it does answer our desire to know how we have arrived at where we are; and in this humble mood I wish to glance back over the history of our local government. If perchance a little wisdom creeps in, take it for an unexpected bonus.

In the Sixteenth Century

Let us set ourselves in the sixteenth century. A great tidying-up was then taking place in England and in western Europe generally, much like the tidying-up that took place a century ago and that many think is due again to-day. We might apply to the period Raleigh's description of Queen Elizabeth in old age: "a lady whom Time had surprised." The institutions of a primitive age had survived into an age that was broadening its mind, bringing new-

found lands into the compass of a rapidly expanding commerce, and trying to adjust its social and political life to the growing demands made upon it. They were the institutions of a society in which central government had been weak and poor and in which a great part of history had been local history because the monarch had not the means to plan and main-

England than elsewhere and our government the most centralised in Europe. The symbol and instrument of this centralisation was the king's law. It had penetrated through the length and breadth of the land until it had become common to all men; it had become the common law of England. Leaving aside the law of the church, this quality of universality was unique in medieval Europe. Unique also were the gilds or trade-unions—the Inns of Court—which the lawyers set up, with their system of apprenticeship or legal education, ending in the call to the Bar. The trade of the law was organised. It was also taught; and taught, not by professional teachers prone to let their teaching wilt into a dead scholasticism, but by practising lawyers, among whom were some of the finest intellects of their time. The common law was therefore both sophisticated and practical. In its formative youth it had drawn largely from the law of a much more advanced and intricate civilisation—that of the old Roman Empire; and though it became excessively formal and marred by many grave flaws, it was a fit instrument to regulate the more complicated life of modern times. Moreover, by another dispensation peculiar to England, it could be amended and extended by parliamentary statute.

Roots in the Feudal Age

Now this law had its roots in the feudal age, the essence of which was that all rights were private rights. Even the king's rights, though more extensive than others, were private not public. The law necessarily reflected the structure of society. It consequently became the palladium of individual rights and of that most obvious of rights in an agricultural society, private property. It was no accident that an English philosopher, Locke, placed the right to property not only beyond the challenge of the king but even of the community: it was, he argued, the end for which civil society came into existence. A great medieval legal writer had enunciated the principle of English law: "The king ought not to be under man but under God and under the law"—that is, under a law that was a strait waistcoat on the monarchy. Judges, said Francis Bacon, should be lions under the throne. They have been; but rampant, not couchant.

The permeation of the whole country by the king's law was accomplished by the device of itinerant judges—our Justices of Assize. Once more let us remind ourselves that this legal system was developed before there was any strongly marked differentiation between the functions of government and when administration and justice were naturally merged together. Consequently the Justices of Assize not only tried criminals when twice a year they perambulated through the counties, but also they had before them local officials and a great number of the inhabitants and instituted a searching inquiry into the way local government was being carried on.

Local and central government were therefore linked together. This in itself was a great help in making the transition from medieval to modern times without an institutional revolution—a revolution which in the sixteenth century could only have resulted in bureaucracy. But the Justices of Assize were no more than occasional visitors. The fate of local government depended on the quality and adaptability of the normal local institutions. If these had remained none other than the Shire Court, the Hundred Court, and the Manorial Court, courts where the body of freeholders present—at any rate, in Shire and Hundred—constituted



Professor J. E. NEALE

tain a centralised and uniform system of institutions. The localities had been left largely to themselves, to their old folk-institutions and the feudal institutions grafted on to them. Shire and hundred and manor, each with its court or courts, blending what we to-day would separate as administration and justice: that is the picture of medieval England, and with some change of nomenclature, of medieval Europe. Law was custom, custom law. It varied from court to court, from local community to local community. Institutions were primitive: that is, they were the reverse of simple. They stagnated.

These were the institutions "surprised by Time." The new age needed, among much else, a common system of law, a common regulation of economic life, a common solution of some of the problems of modern life—that of poverty, for example. This systematising activity had to come from the central government, in other words from the monarchy. Hence the sixteenth century was the age of the New Monarchy. In its womb lay the absolute monarchies of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The question for us is what happened to local government? In the middle ages local government had been self-government because no other had been possible; but whether the old system would continue or not depended upon its sophistication, whether it was flexible enough to provide the minimum of efficiency and uniformity that the new nation-state demanded.

It was here that England differed from the continent, and in consequence the parting of the ways came which led to the conservation and development of parliamentary institutions and self-government in England while abroad the new monarchy gave birth to absolutism. By a paradox the reason for this was that in the middle ages the monarchy had been stronger in

(Continued on page 211)

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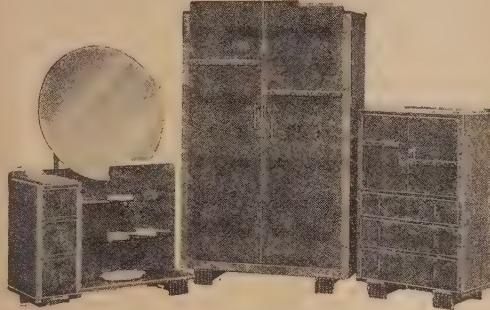
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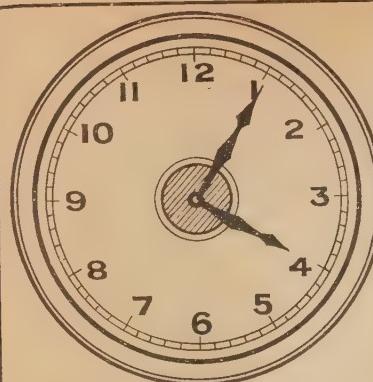
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(Continued on col. 2, page 210)

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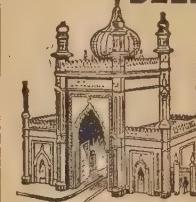
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ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 207)

the deciding authority and immemorial custom the guiding principle of action, how could the monarchy have failed to override such a custom-bound, inefficient organisation by a system of professional officials? But it is here that another feature of medieval development in England came to the rescue. I refer to the Justice of the Peace. Sixteenth-century writers in our constitution were loud in their praise of him: "There was never in any commonwealth devised a more wise, a more dulce and gentle, nor a more certain way to rule the people, whereby they are kept always as it were in a bridle of good order."

Officials of the Law

These Justices, as their name implies, were primarily officials of the law; they presided over local criminal courts. But they, too, had their beginnings when administration and justice were undifferentiated, and from early times administrative duties accompanied legal. In the J.P. the sixteenth-century monarch had an official whom he could make his local man-of-all-work, and whom he could saddle with the licensing of alehouses, the control of vagabonds, restraint of extravagance in dress—"a pestilentanker in the commonwealth"—the fixing of wages for farm labourers and artisans, supervision of the poor-law, and, indeed, the hundred and one jobs that the central government wanted doing in the locality. In addition the Justices of the Peace had to supervise the conduct of the other local officials: in the words of their commission they were "to inquire by oath of good and lawful men of the county" concerning "such sheriffs, bailiffs, stewards, constables, keepers of gaols and other officers as are lukewarm, remiss, or negligent in the performance of their offices." Their duties were legion, the flexibility of their office astounding. Let us note the variety of their work in a few extracts from the Quarter Sessions Records of the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1598:

"For that information is given unto this Court by the High Constables of Staincross that Adam Hutchinson and Thomas Hodgson of Barnsley, alehouse keepers, are men of bad behaviour and do maintain ill rule in their houses. It is therefore ordered that a warrant shall be made against them to discharge them from keeping any alehouse until reformation be had."

"Whereas there is a poor infant child left within the town of Southowrom, who are so sore charged with their own poor that they are scarce able to relieve them, and therefore hath required aid of this Court. It is therefore ordered that the said child shall not only be relieved within the same town, but also through the whole parish of Halifax."

"Ordered that no brewsters within this division shall brew any ale or beer of greater price to be sold, or sell any of any greater quantity than only of a penny the quart, except they shall have a special license from some Justice of Peace."

"Whereas the highway leading from Leeds to Wikebridge hath been heretofore presented by jury to be in great decay. . . . Therefore the foresaid jurors by the consent of the Justices here present do lay a pain that every person occupying a plough tithe of land within any of the parishes of Leeds . . . shall send their draughts and sufficient labourers and repair the same before August 25 upon pain of 20s."

"Forasmuch as Thomas Stringer was brought here in Court for suspicion of sheep stealing and did confess himself guilty thereof. It is therefore ordered that he shall be conveyed to Wentbridge from whence he came and there by the Constable whipped, being stripped naked from the middle upwards."

The J.P. was a local gentleman, whose pay of 4s. per day when he sat in Quarter Sessions was far from making a professional official of him. And even that modest payment died out, like the wages of Members of Parliament, in the seventeenth century. Here again the age in which his office originated determined its character. A monarch who found it a necessary economy to reward central officials with ecclesiastical benefices, could not afford an army of local officials. Moreover, the baronage and gentry were too independent to be controlled by such a system. Set a thief to catch a thief; set the gentry to keep peace among the gentry. Consequently, local government became merged with the interests of the gentry. It also became merged with the interests of the common law, for it was this law that the Justices administered and they became imbued with its spirit. Moreover, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries many country gentlemen, who then went to the universities very young, finished their education at the Inns of Court. You will remember that in Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, Justice Silence told Justice Shallow that his boy, William, was at Oxford. "A' must, then, to the Inns o' Court shortly," said Shallow. "I was once of Clement's Inn; where I think they will talk of mad Shallow yet . . . By the mass, I was called any thing; and I would have done any thing indeed too, and roundly too. There was I, and Little John Doit of Staffordshire, and Black George Barnes, and Francis Pickbone, and Will Squeale a Cotswoold man; you had not four such swinge-bucklers in all the Inns of Court again."

Into the House of Commons

Further, by the close of the sixteenth century these same country gentlemen had got themselves in overwhelming numbers into the House of Commons. And so Parliament, which as the great amending organ of the law was already bound up with the legal system, was also linked with it through the personnel of the House of Commons. In sixteenth-century Europe the tide set in favour of monarchy, but what could it do in England save pound ineffectively on the rock of our Common Law? The future of England as a constitutional monarchy under a rule of law was already determined, and determined in no small measure by the survival of our medieval system of local government.

On the continent the story was different. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the countries of western Europe underwent what is known as the Reception of Roman Civil Law. That is to say, the royal courts took over the law of the old Roman Empire and it was this law which, as the monarch's power developed, became the common law of France, the German states, and other countries. Its sophistication commanded it. There were no Inns of Court to foster any rival, and the only secular law taught at continental universities was the Roman Civil Law; as indeed it was the only secular law taught at the two English universities until the eighteenth century. Its roots lay not in a feudal society but in a despotic empire. Its fundamental principle was the famous dictum, "What pleases the Prince has the force of law." The stage was thus set for the emergence of absolute monarchy. Nothing from the past could stand permanently in its way. Representative assemblies, the sisters of our Parliament, were not set immovably in the structure of society. They were not law-making bodies. They were out of harmony with Roman Law. They went. Local institutions, too, were merely primitive and feudal institutions, as unfitted to survive into modern times as our Shire and Hundred and Manorial Courts would have been without the saving grace of the J.P. Royal officials overrode them. Even the cities, those oases of advanced self-government, were brought under royal control.

The medieval system of local-government sur-

vived in England because of its relative efficiency and remarkable flexibility. Let us see how it worked at what, before the reforms of last century, was in some ways its period of maximum satisfaction—the end of the sixteenth century. England was then an agricultural country of some four million people. It had its towns, of which I will speak in a minute or two; but primarily it was a land of thousands of villages, seldom containing more than one or two hundred inhabitants and often much less. Standards of human welfare were simple, and to leave each community to look after itself, with the requisite jogs from the central government, was the easiest and best policy.

In the feudal age the village had been organised as an association of producers through the manorial system. The manor was now dying, but it left the village organised. Its place was taken by the community in another aspect—grouped round its church. This was the parish, and when the Reformation turned the church into a department of state, the parish offered itself as the basic unit of local government. It was already a self-governing community, ordering the religious welfare of its members in an age when membership of the church and attendance as it were compulsory on everyone. It was also a financial unit, for it had to maintain its church and to look after its poor even before the state turned this work of charity into a statutory obligation. Often it had endowments, lands or houses; or maybe cows and sheep left by pious parishioners, the exploitation of which caused anxious thought; was it better to sell outright, or to let on hire and risk losing capital and income if the wretched beasts died? The parish might even turn money-lender or pawnbroker, tempering its activities by a spirit of charity strange to such callings. It also had an ever-present help in time of financial trouble, the sixteenth-century prototype of our church bazaar; only it was a church-ale, a Gargantuan feast and even more Gargantuan drinking, to which people streamed from far and wide. Finally, when other resources failed, there was the parish rate. What was all this—church-ale excepted—but an embryonic unit of local government?

The Churchwarden

The ecclesiastical parish bequeathed to the secular parish an official, the churchwarden, who was treasurer and executive officer for the community and was elected annually by the parishioners assembled in the vestry of the church. He was unpaid, and when elected had no option but to serve. The state joined other men with the churchwardens and created the overseers of the poor, using parish finances to carry out its poor law. Another official, this time bequeathed by the manor, was the constable, the village policeman, also appointed annually and unpaid. In a small community the human material from which to select officials was limited, and simple mind and simple heart had often to cope with a simple job. You probably know the inimitable Dogberry and Verges in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Dogberry of course was constable of a borough, but we'll risk his wrath and make him sit for our portrait of a parish constable. "I am a wise fellow," he said; "and which is more, an officer; and which is more, as pretty a piece of flesh as any in Messina; and one that knows the law, go to; and a rich fellow enough, go to; and a fellow that hath had losses; and one that hath two gowns, and everything handsome about him." As you will remember, he also said, "Write me down an ass!" And I am afraid we must; though a very lovable ass. We complete our principal parish officials with the surveyor of the highways. Like everything else—and for the same reason, namely that no other expedient was practicable—the care of the roads was a local responsibility. Every householder

(Continued on page 212)

ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 211.)

was under obligation to go road-mending. Bad roads! But there were no motor cars and practically no carriages.

Parish Government

Parish government needed supervision by a higher authority; the parish too might prove an inappropriate area for its work. Machinery was required to meet these needs, and the answer was the county. Not the ancient County Court, which was practically moribund, but the country J.P.'s in their Court of Quarter Sessions or exercising powers as single justices or in groups of two or more. They sometimes appointed parish officials; in any case the officials were answerable to them for performing their duties. When a particular parish was overburdened with its poor, the justices could spread the cost beyond its bounds. They could levy rates to repair the county highways—bridges in particular—when the parish failed as an appropriate area for the work. They could levy county rates for many other purposes; for example, to enable poor prisoners to pay their gaoler's fees, since imprisonment in those days was not at the expense of the Crown but the prisoner. The distribution through the county of these charges and of certain central taxation was facilitated by the divisions known as Hundreds into which the county had for centuries been divided. At one time the Hundred with its folk court had been an important unit of self-government. By the Elizabethan period it had become little more than an extremely useful subdivision of the county, with two officials known as high constables—usually gentlemen—through whom financial and other county burdens could be conveniently apportioned and passed on to the parish.

Thus—if once more we exclude the borough—English local government was based upon the parish, a real social unit, and upon the county, a geographical area with little rhyme or reason in its boundaries save this, that centuries of history had transformed a geographical expression into a self-conscious community. Add the invaluable distributive area, the Hundred, and I think you will agree with me that in relation to its time this system of local government was sound.

The propulsion to keep the pendulum swinging came from the central government. As we have seen, the Justices of Assize paid periodic visits to the counties and reported to the government when they returned to London. But there was also an unsleeping watch kept by the Privy Council, and in the Star Chamber there was a disciplinary court which did not hesitate to bring to his senses any J.P. or local official who tried to play the tyrant or villain in his locality. Whitehall to-day may scourge with whips. Elizabeth's Privy Council employed scorpions. An eminent American historian, reading the chidings and threatenings that descended on the Elizabethan J.P. from Westminster, was shocked. But, in truth, this strong discipline was the secret of successful local self-government.

Queen Elizabeth Took a Hand

Queen Elizabeth herself took a hand in the job. Towards the end of her reign the J.P. was under fire from critics, and as the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal explained, "For that the number of Justices of the Peace was grown almost infinite, to the hindrance of justice, the one trusting so much unto another that there are more justices than justice . . . and of these many insufficient, unlearned, negligent, or undiscreets, Her Majesty therefore, like a good housewife looking unto all her household stuff, took the book—the list of J.P.'s—in her own hands, and in the sight of us, the Lord Keeper and Treasurer, went through and noted those justices she would have continue in commission, and [those] whom she thought not meet, and willed us to consider the rest." The incident reminds us that Elizabethan England was not unlike an enormous family, the gentry for the

most part being known at court as Debrett was known last century.

So far I have excluded the borough from my narrative. Not inappropriately, for what is its history but a story of exclusion from the normal institutional life of the country? Its life was a broadening out from charter to charter. It bought franchises from the king. If it could—and it generally could—it bought out, partially or wholly, the lord who owned it, whether king or subject. During the centuries when group personality found natural acceptance in the current body of ideas it assumed a corporate character. When in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries royal judges were taking over from the Roman Civil Law the concept that a non-natural, a fictitious person—in other words, a corporation—could only be created by the Prince, it secured a charter of incorporation from the Crown, permitting it to sue and be sued in its corporate capacity.

The Borough

The borough was a community withdrawn, in varying degree, from the normal system of local government and governing itself through its own institutions by virtue of the privileges it had acquired. You can see the Manor absorbed into it, with its control of the town fields, its picturesque—or rather, its picturesquely entitled officials, such as Aleconner, Bread-weigher, or Dog-muzzler; also with its general right to cope with nuisances and formulate obligations for the common good—a right out of which much of modern municipal activity, including what we now call public health, could be made to grow if the authorities had the wit, honesty, and drive to develop their opportunities. It was an association of producers in the spheres of commerce and manufacture. You can see this in the control of its market and its trade regulations. It had civil jurisdiction in cases of debt and trespass. In the past this had cut it out from the old folk-court of the Hundred. In some instances—notably London, York, and Bristol—it had become a county in itself and excluded the sheriff. It even sought exclusiveness within the system of Justices of the Peace. If wholly successful, its own officials held quarter sessions for the borough. If partially successful, they might be on the county commission, while, if unsuccessful, the borough was subject to the jurisdiction of the county justices like the parish. It is all a story of incredible variety, which is merely to say that it is medieval: like Topsy, it "grow'd."

These urban communities at the end of the sixteenth century were with few exceptions tiny societies. Norwich, one of the largest, had a population of about 17,000, Coventry, 6,500, Cambridge, excluding the university, 5,000, Leicester 4,000. These were on the large side. Liverpool had about 750 inhabitants. Their finances were correspondingly modest. The balance sheet for the year 1599 of the small Suffolk borough of Dunwich, which sent two representatives to Parliament and had criminal jurisdiction extending to all felonies, was: receipts £41 12s. 4d. plus £5 still owing; expenditure £41 10s. 3d.; result, as Mr. Micawber would say, happiness.

No Single System

There was no single system of government. Very much the contrary; but in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries there was a tendency towards a normal system of mayor or bailiff assisted by a group of twelve or twenty-four brethren usually called aldermen, and a second group twice the number, known as the common council or the twenty-four or forty-eight: in other words, our modern mayor, aldermen, and councillors. It was once thought that the story of borough government was that of a decline from democracy to oligarchy. Rather, it is a story of oligarchy—or maybe we should say aristocracy—harassed or tempered by occasional "democratic" agitations. The common council, which was really a second council

grafted on to the council of mayor's brethren or aldermen, was the result of democratic agitation in the late middle ages. But it also tended to decline into oligarchy. The fact is that if people were competent to rule, and, as the fine imposed for refusing office show, fewer still were willing.

Corporations In the Sixteenth Century

The corporation in the late sixteenth century was a close body, co-opting new members; but it was carrying out its task with relative efficiency. Like the parish it drew its income from property and rates, but property included more than land: market-tolls, fines from courts and for refusal to accept office, also the occasion of sale of the status of burgess, a valuable privilege exempting its holders from various tolls and entitling them to trade within the borough. The income was small, so in those days was the possible scope of government, while the range of obligation on the individual resident was wide. The resident was obliged, for example, to repair and clean the street in front of his house. During the century, boroughs were busily paving their streets. Power was needed to compel each resident to pave his particular patch, and for this and other reasons private Acts of Parliament were obtained. The private act was an important sign of the way municipal government was to expand in the future. So was the occasional appearance of a borough pavior. Again, the connection between dirt and disease was not unknown. The authorities compelled each resident to clean his area of the street once or maybe twice a week and ordered street and house refuse to be dumped in certain places. Then they took to employing a common Carter, who however was paid by the individual resident whose obligation he was fulfilling. The public scavenger thus arrived. From time to time a rate was levied or a fund was raised for some common action. By these means most towns in the sixteenth century brought a water supply through conduits from springs outside the town to supplement the inadequate wells within. No doubt we would shudder at the primitive and insanitary character of Elizabethan towns, but standards have altered enormously since those days and towns have become devastatingly urban which then were semi-rural. On the whole the impression is one of active communities whose authorities were not asleep, nor grossly corrupt, be it added, blessed with much chance of gross corruption.

Professor Neale's address will be concluded in our next issue.

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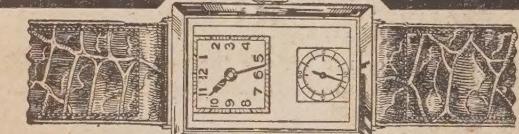


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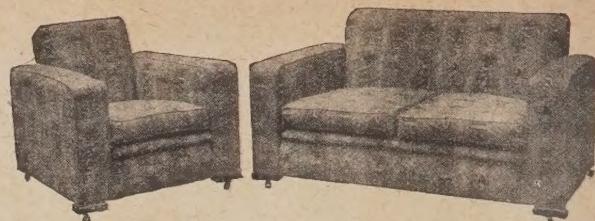
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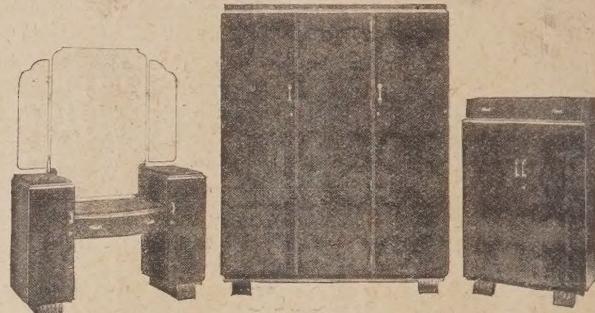
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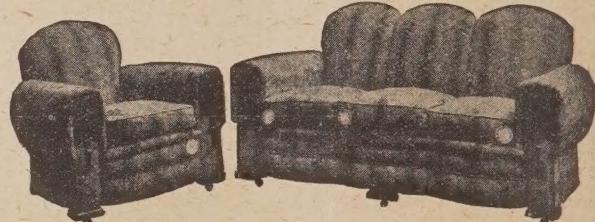


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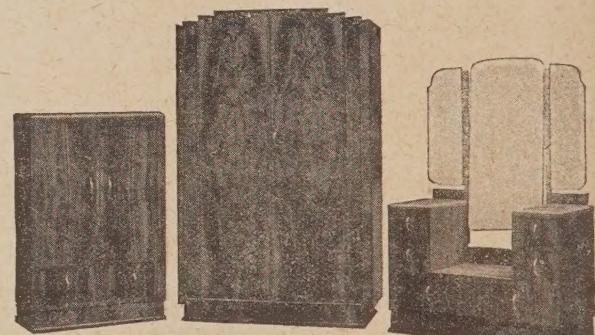
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